



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Harry Aleo— Champion of Small-Town Noe Valley

By Jim Christie

With Noe Valley about to celebrate its History Day on June 26 (the last History Day of the century!), what better way to reminisce about the past than by hearing from a man whose neighborhood connections go back 75 years?

Harry Aleo, the owner of Twin Peaks Properties, was born in San Francisco in 1920, and moved from the South of Market area to Noe Valley when he was 5. These days he lives "just six minutes away" in West Portal, but he still spends a considerable amount of time in the neighborhood.

Entering his 24th Street office feels like a journey back in time. Behind the front counter there's a pile of firewood and an axe sitting next to a wood-burning stove. The walls are covered with aging framed photographs, mostly of racehorses, one of Aleo's passions. The room has a couple of comfy chairs and several 1940s-era radios, one of which is tuned to a station playing "Stormy Weather" (which Aleo unabashedly sings along with).

He sits down in a swivel chair behind his desk, leans back, and peers suspiciously through his eyeglasses at the interloper who wants to hear about the good old days. Aleo's wavy silver hair is combed back neatly, and his strong facial features only hint at his Italian ancestry. His fit, compact frame and a brown

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## Snuggle up with A Good 'Indie' Bookstore

By Maire Farrington

If you saw the movie *You've Got Mail*, you know that these are challenging times for independent bookstores. In the fictional tale, Meg Ryan plays the owner of a small book shop that is forced to shut down after a glitzy, corporate-owned bookstore moves in across the street.

Such scenarios have unfortunately become all too real in today's book business. Now, the "indie" bookstores are competing with the one-click shopping available on web sites like Amazon.com, and with the substantial discounts (and coffee coupons) offered by chains such as Barnes & Noble and Borders Books.

Obviously, the small booksellers must work harder than ever to keep their customer base. But somehow, some way, Noe Valley's three independent bookstores have thrived in recent years. Two have even expanded into larger storefronts on 24th Street.

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## History Day Celebration in June

Once upon a time in Noe Valley...the No. 11 streetcar ran down 24th Street. The Noe movie house occupied the spot where Just for Fun now stands. Chocolate eclairs with real whipped cream cost 5 cents at Plate's Bakery.

Those are just a few of the memories that will be on display at the annual Noe Valley History Day, June 26, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. Sponsored by the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley, the "nostalgic look back" will feature old photos, newspaper clippings, and other artifacts culled from the Noe Valley Archives, plus a videotaped interview with Tillie Smith, a survivor of the 1906 earthquake.

"The younger people should be apprised of what the neighborhood was like," says Paul Kantus, president of the East & West of Castro Club. Kantus, 73, has lived in the same house at Douglass and 21st streets since his birth in 1926.

By sharing the history, he hopes to encourage residents to preserve the neighborhood's character. Organizers are also inviting people to scour their attics and basements for items that might be of interest to future generations. The artifacts can be donated to the Noe Valley Archives, housed at the library. (Give Kantus a call at 647-3753.)

Besides the historical display, the event will include free refreshments and special activities for kids. The Flying Calamari Brothers will perform a magic show at 1:30 p.m., and folksinger Bruce Sherman will entertain at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 695-5095. The branch is located at 451 Jersey St. near Castro. (The 24 trolley stops a block and a half away.) —Mark Robinson

1950 photo courtesy of Paul Kantus and the Noe Valley Archives

## A Stolen Car Can Put a Big Dent in Your Day

By Alison Pence

It was 8:15 a.m., and Victoria Colgan was in a hurry to get to a doctor's appointment. As she descended her front steps, she fingered the keys to her nine-month-old, shiny white Honda. Then she noticed the empty stretch of curb near the corner of Hoffman and 23rd streets where she'd parked her car the day before.

"Suddenly, I got an awful feeling in the pit of my stomach," she said. Either her car had been towed, for extending an inch into a fire hydrant zone, or—worst case scenario—it had been stolen.

After seeing red for a few seconds—and wondering how she could have let herself get talked into those leather seats—Colgan turned around, marched back to her house, and called a taxi. All the way through the \$10 cab ride and her appointment at Kaiser, she felt a growing sense of dread.

Once back home, she anxiously picked up the phone, this time dialing the non-emergency number at the San Francisco Police Department (553-0123). The person on the other end of the line checked the computer to see if Colgan's car had been towed. (Police keep a computer log of all towed cars in the city.) Unfortunately, hers was not listed.

At that point, Colgan was sure the car had been stolen. "When I told the police it had been stolen, they said, 'Gee, we already sent an officer to your block this morning, because somebody else's car

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When Cover to Cover moved in late February, 250 loyal fans formed a human "book brigade" to pass the store's books down 24th Street.

Photo by Beverly Sharp





**Good Hit, Son!** Bob Bartz congratulates 5½-year-old Stephan, on connecting with the ball at Douglass Park. Here's a wish for a Happy Father's Day now and in all the Junes to come.  
*Photo by Pamela Gerord*

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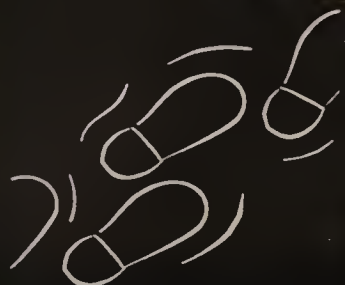
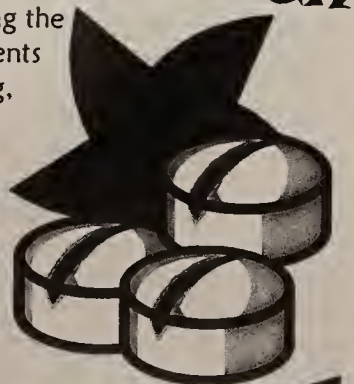
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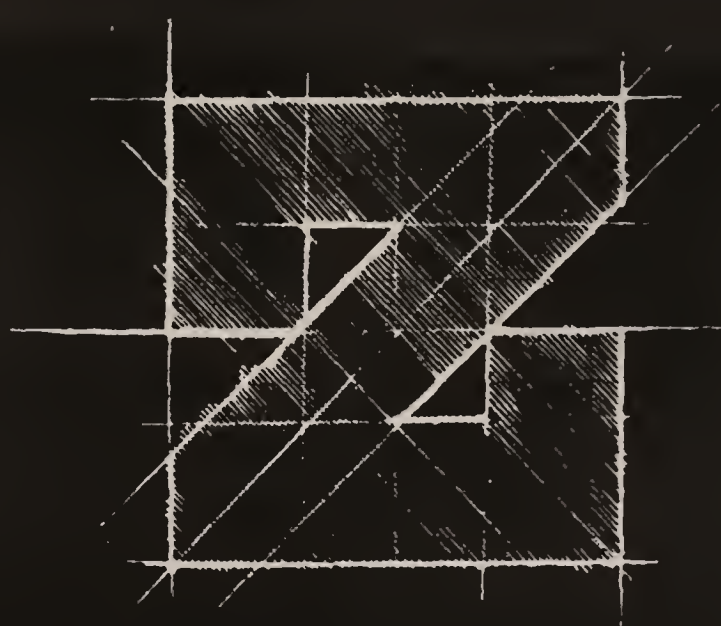
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# LETTERS 33¢

### Praise for Gallant Street Sweeper

Editor:

I am writing this letter to thank the gentleman who identified himself as "Paul the street sweeper," a true gallant if ever there was one.

On May 3, my car was towed illegally from the vicinity of 22nd and Church. It seems that someone had posted the space where I had parked for a moving van. The signs were admittedly (by the postee) torn down earlier, but Officer #0201 chose to have my car towed anyway. I walked to Noe's Bar at Church and 24th to call a cab, which never showed up.

Paul, wearing a street sweeper's vest, noticed my distress, and I explained what had happened. A true gentleman, he offered and I accepted a ride to the Hall of Justice, where I ransomed my Toyota from durance vile in the impound lot.

His conduct lifted my spirits in what was a very dismaying situation.

Three cheers for Paul the street sweeper!

Joanne D. Rush  
Prospect Street

### An Open-and-Shut Car Break-In

Editor:

I hope many readers will be as appalled as I am, regarding the outcome of a car break-in reported by Officer Lois Perillo in her informative Police Beat column (May 1999 *Voice*).

The item mentions a person being spotted inside a vandalized vehicle by both witnesses and police officers. Apparently, the police were alerted by an observant neighbor's calls. The car's radio, stripped from the dash, identified by the owner, along with burglary tools, were found in a bag, still in possession of the suspect. The perpetrator was charged with both felony and misdemeanor offenses.

An open-and-shut case? Not quite!

The charges were thrown out because the car owner had returned to Minnesota. Am I missing something here?

Presumably, the vehicle owner made a statement regarding ownership. Is it possible the inept criminal pled not guilty?

What is the message this scenario sends to civic-minded people who report a crime in progress?

And is there a hidden message to auto break-in artists: Always make sure the vehicle has out-of-state license plates?

I am keeping my fingers crossed that the thief will not sue for wrongful arrest or defamation of character.

Ron Maberley  
Alma Street

### Stench Has a Long History

Editor:

In a story printed in your last issue ["Hahn's Hibachi's Neighbors Are Breathing Easier," May 1999 *Voice*], you wrote that I "spearheaded" the opposition against Hahn's. I did not! Neighbors on Jersey Street did. They are the ones who suffered 31/2 years of that stench. I joined the fight when I could not walk down 24th Street without getting an attack of asthma and said enough was enough.

Lorraine Sherrill

*The Voice* apologizes for the error.

### Condo Prices Are Obscene

Editor:

Am I the only reader who was taken aback by the 25th Street condo sellers who unabashedly raised their asking prices due to strong buyer demand? ["Neighborhood House Prices Hit the Roof," May 1999 *Voice*]

If all potential buyers would refuse to pay these obscene prices, perhaps we

could put a stop to their escalation. Sadly, Noe Valley has turned from its working-class origins to an exclusive enclave where property values rule the roost (with a little boost from the realtors).

If we truly are concerned about school teachers, janitors, bus drivers, and those who make our city a special place in which to live, we should act to obtain more low- and moderate-income housing—and not let the developers call the shots. Large apartment buildings should contain a mix of higher-priced and less expensive units.

We must make room for all income groups in all neighborhoods, or we perpetuate the division of the haves and have-nots.

Marge Harburg  
Winfield Street

### Bring Back Argyle Socks

Editor:

I rather like the Noe Valley comfortable and casual clothes look ["Is There a Noe Valley Look?" May 1999 *Voice*].

However, some men and women confuse casual with sloppy. The look can degenerate into slovenly, dirty, and unshaven, particularly for men. That Noe Valley look is unappealing and appalling.

Thanks to the real estate crowd, we do see some beautifully dressed men and women, usually in a hurry, gracing 24th Street. My brother and sister clergy wear clerical collars from time to time. Sadly, even clerical dress has fallen out of fashion in some circles. Our Roman Catholic clergy should be seen in clericals more often. I think we look rather spiffy when

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# The Neighborhood According to Harry

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leather bomber jacket give the impression of someone decades younger.

Aleo's speech is peppered with mild oaths, and his gruff manner can be intimidating. (He usually avoids interviews and likes to dismiss the *Voice* as "that radical rag.") But once he warms to his subject, he sets his natural guardedness aside.

Aleo has plenty of fond memories of his childhood in Noe Valley. He lived with his parents at 820 Diamond St., above the small fruit and vegetable store they operated for 30 years. Harry delivered groceries for Aleo's Market as a youngster, and he attended the neighborhood's public schools.

Harry started grade school at Noe Valley Elementary, a wooden schoolhouse at 24th and Douglass streets (where Noe Courts is today). Then he moved to James Lick Junior High when it opened on Noe Street in the 1930s.

"James Lick was originally a four-story wooden building," Aleo says. "Then they tore it down. I had the distinction of being in the last class at the old James Lick and the first class at the new James Lick."

One of Aleo's biggest smiles is reserved for his memories of the original Herb's Fine Foods (3991 24th St.) —

**T**hen there was a fellow named Buxy Mullins who would drive his convertible down 24th Street with his head popped up through a hole in the ragtop. "We'd lob water balloons at him if we spotted him coming," laughs Aleo. "We had good clean fun back then."

whose proprietors were Herb and Margaret Gaines. The soda fountain was directly across from the Noe Theater, the majestic movie house that stood where Just for Fun and Ritz Camera are now.

"Movies cost a dime," he recalls. "Then we'd have dime hamburgers and milkshakes at Herb's after the show." The film he remembers most from the Noe's heyday is *The Wizard of Oz*, released in 1939.

Aleo also engaged in his share of adolescent pranks with his friends. On Halloween he and his buddies would toss eggs through the angled open windows of the Noe Valley Library's upper floor. Then there was a fellow named Buxy Mullins who would drive his convertible down 24th Street with his head popped up through a hole in the ragtop. "We'd lob water balloons at him if we spotted him coming," laughs Aleo. "We had good clean fun back then."

The convertible triggers another recollection. "One of the strange things was that we used to have five gas stations and very few cars," Aleo says. "There was the Flying A, where Home Savings is now, a Richfield station at Church and Jersey, a station at 24th and Diamond, one next to Haystack Pizza, and another at 24th and Church. Now we have no gas stations and too many cars."

Aleo smiles and makes a claim that present-day car owners can only dream about: "Back then, you could drive anywhere and park."

Still, public transportation was king in the '20s and '30s. Aleo remembers the old Number 11 streetcar, which ran on 24th Street from Hoffman Avenue down to Dolores, where it turned left heading north. At 22nd Street it cut over to Mission Street for its run to the Bay.

"There was also a cable car barn where



If you think Harry Aleo's storefront window on 24th Street has memorabilia, you should see the old photos, radios, and records inside. Aleo grew up in Noe Valley during the Roaring 20s, and opened his real estate office, Twin Peaks Properties, in 1947. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Week is unusually successful. A clever group of performers obtained grand results at the opening show. The bill opens rather quietly, increases in tempo and by the time the finale rolls around, you suddenly realize it's the best show the Gate has had in many a moon.

The Daffiness Boys... MoConnell and Moore (jugglers)... a comic-dancing trio... and an unbilled impersonator seemed most effective, Jay Brower, too.

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"CASE OF THE VELVET CLAWS"

The Noe Theater opened on Jan. 14, 1937, with *The Case of the Velvet Claws* and *Old Hutch*, starring Wallace Beery. Throughout the '40s, San Franciscans flocked to the neighborhood movie palaces, recalls Harry Aleo. Still, there were plenty of parking spaces on 24th Street.

Walmart's is today," he adds. "Its cars traveled along Castro from 26th to 18th." (The Castro Street line was phased out by 1941 and replaced with diesel buses. Later it switched to electric trolleys and became the 24-Divisadero.)

When Aleo and his pals weren't tossing water balloons or hitching rides on cable cars, they played a lot of baseball. "I was with the Douglass Midgets," he says proudly. "Glen Park's team would come to Douglass Park to play us, and we'd walk over the hill to Glen Park to play them. Good Brothers Dairy was over there, and cows used to graze where Glen Canyon is today."

Baseball remained an important part of Aleo's life. After graduating from Mission High School, he was a pitcher and third baseman at San Francisco Junior College (now City College). He later played semi-pro ball. In the early 1940s he signed a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers, but an arm injury cut short his career. Aleo still has the release letter he received from the legendary Branch Rickey. He remains a Dodgers fan to this day.

Aleo was almost 21 when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place. He remembers climbing up to his rooftop the night of

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## LETTERS 33¢

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dressed up a bit.

Sadly, the bankers have gone the way of casual-to-sloppy. Can we trust a banker-man without a coat and tie or a banker-woman without a jacket? I prefer to use the automatic teller machines so I do not have to worry about the rectitude of my bankers.

Your fashion reporter, Anne Sengès, cited the muted colors and lack of turquoise in our neighborhood. Nevertheless, I love the bright, passionate colors, which I assume are in reserve only until the next fashion trend, when they'll be trotted out again. I love brightly colored argyle socks. But I am fast running out of them since no one peddles them any longer.

It is too bad there are so few special occasions on 24th Street when folks dress up. We go to the opera and the symphony, and out to dinner, and some of us dress up. But even in those sacred places of music and food, the casual-to-sloppy look reigns. Maybe an Easter Parade or Fall Festival could be held where we can strut our finery. My darling wife, Ann, dresses to the nines with a splendid hat each Sunday she attends Trinity.

Casual and comfortable is fine, but showing off the beautiful, colorful, and glorious is wonderful, too.

Robert Warren Cromey  
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church  
Resident of 20th Street

### A Group of Parents for Public Schools

Editor:

Some of you may know that a local chapter of the national organization Parents for Public Schools is forming in San Francisco. (Check out the national web site at [www.parents4publicschools.com](http://www.parents4publicschools.com).)

As a parent with a child in the public schools, I (Sandra) attended their national convention recently and was very impressed with the group, the resources they have to offer, and their board members—they draw support from well-respected organizations like the Kettering Foundation and the Institute for Responsive Education ([www.resp-ed.org](http://www.resp-ed.org)). The initial work of the chapter will be to focus on providing families of preschoolers with information and resources on school selection and enrollment.

We hope to reach out to constituencies in the city who are unfamiliar with the fact that they have a voice as to where their children go to school. In addition, we want to encourage families to look at "less well-known" schools, and to work with schools to ensure that the public schools are a viable option for all families in the community. We will be working on a public perception campaign as well as site capacity issues at the schools.

Obviously, we cannot change the world overnight, and so we will start small, and as our membership grows, we will tackle other issues such as "Building the Bridge to Middle School." We also hope to have a voice in the selection of the new superintendent and the new enrollment process.

We are looking for a core group of members to help us get this off the ground, who are advocates for public education and who would rather "light candles than curse the darkness," as Adlai Stevenson said of Eleanor Roosevelt. We are working with a local foundation on start-up costs and looking for links to other foundations that would like to fund this type of group. We are also looking for contacts in an ad agency who would like

to work with us on a pro bono basis.

Give us a call if you can help.

Sandra Halladey

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### Be Wary of Reese Cup Guy

Editor:

My name is Paul Abrams, and I am the Department of Public Works street sweeper here in Noe Valley. Some of you may have seen me working at one time or another. I would like to share with you one of my experiences in the neighborhood.

While cleaning at Noe and 24th streets, I observed a man and woman talking. At first I thought they were together. Then I noticed her open her wallet and hand him a \$10 bill. In exchange, he gave her a king-size Reese's peanut butter cup. (Any real fundraiser would have charged only \$1 for this item.)

As he left, I made an inquiry of the woman as I made a note of his departing direction. She said he had told her he represented an AIDS charity and had asked if she would like to volunteer; if not, would she contribute \$10 to the cause.

I followed the man up the block, where he was accosting two young women. An exchange (cash—candy) had already occurred. I asked him to produce his identification. He acted as if he had it, but could not produce it. He then offered the women their money back if they did not feel comfortable contributing, since he did not have his charity I.D. As money and candy were being returned, I noticed a patrol car rolling by. I whistled for the police, and this man took off running up Sanchez, never to return (so far as I know) to Noe Valley.

I wish to enlighten the members of our community to some important facts:

- Legitimate charities rarely solicit on the street.

- Representatives *always* have a picture I.D., with the title, address, and phone number of their organization on it.

- Opening your wallet or furnishing your address to anyone on the street is potentially dangerous and costly.

- Contributing on the street encourages more beggars to make a living from the generosity and vulnerability of the Noe Valley community.

Please understand my total commitment to my job and our neighborhood. At your service always,

Paul Abrams

### Search for the Causes of Breast Cancer

Editor:

I read with interest Suzanne Herel's article in the April issue regarding the high sales of the breast cancer stamp in Noe Valley. I think it's wonderful that our neighborhood is showing so much support for breast cancer research. But exactly what kind of research is funded by the stamp funds?

The stamp itself says: "Fund the fight. Find a cure." The search for a cure is undoubtedly an important effort, but so is the search for the causes of this disease.

As the article pointed out, 70 percent of the funds raised will go to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which, in turn, is directing it to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The NCI has largely focused its research on genetics, chemotherapy treatments, and so-called "prevention" pills. Yet, true prevention can only come through finding the causes of breast cancer and eradicating them.

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# Give 'em Hell, Harry!

Continued from Page 5

Dec. 7, 1941, and looking around at San Francisco shrouded in darkness — a blackout was in effect because of a rumored Japanese air attack.

Like many other young men, Aleo was drafted by the U.S. Army. But he was initially turned down because of a slight hernia. He had surgery to correct the problem, was reclassified 1-A, and eventually fought with the 87th Infantry in France, Germany, and the Ardennes campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge with General Patton's 3rd Army.

After returning from the war, Aleo began working part-time at a real estate firm. He decided after six months to start his own real estate and insurance brokerage, so he and a partner, Jerry Butler, opened Twin Peaks Properties in 1947. (Butler was involved for only a few years.) The original office was located on 24th Street where Haystack Pizza is today. Aleo paid \$75 per month rent for 12 years.

"Johnny McCarthy [the landlord] never considered raising the rent," Aleo says. "These days it's how much can I get—not what's a fair and just rate. I understand that if someone buys property at current prices, they need to cover their mortgage payments, but some people bought years ago. I'm against gouging rents."

Aleo considers himself to be a Johnny McCarthy-style landlord. He prefers that his residential and commercial rental rates remain confidential, but the numbers he mentions are well below what the market would bear now.

Twin Peaks Properties moved to its current location at 4072 24th St. (near Castro) in 1958, when Aleo became the sales agent and eventual buyer of the building next door to John's Pool Hall (now the Mitre Box frame shop). Aleo remembers that the space had been occupied for years by Pete's Grocery, but Pete decided to retire when the owner put the building up for sale.

"It was a great opportunity," says Aleo. "That's where all the business was, between Castro and Noe. There wasn't much of anything near my first office."

The building owner wanted \$35,000, with \$5,000 down, so Aleo borrowed the down payment and the place became his. The mortgage payment was \$200 a month.

Noe Valley in pre-World War II days was populated mainly by working-class people of Irish and German descent. Aleo remembers only one African American, who happened to be the mailman. Over time, a few Asian store owners moved in.

These and other changes to the neighborhood were always gradual, according to Aleo. Even the hippie invasion of the late '60s had little effect on the neighborhood. Aleo remembers joining a Council of Merchants delegation to meet with the mayor about the "vagrant" problem in the Haight. "Mayor Shelley just held up his hands and said, 'What the hell can I do?'" laughs Aleo.

The only time Aleo sensed an abrupt shift in Noe Valley was when Safeway opened in Diamond Heights. "Look at what they carry," he says, "cards, flowers, a bakery, meat and fish markets. Just think of all the small shops that represents. The little guys couldn't compete!"

Asked about the issue of chain stores in the neighborhood, Aleo says, "You can't keep a chain store out just because they're a chain, although I wish you could. But there are other ways, like [looking at] the impact on traffic and parking they create, and by limiting the area size of the business. I want to maintain the small-town charm of the neigh-



One of Harry Aleo's happiest memories is going to the movies at the Noe Theater, then running across 24th Street to Herb's for a hamburger and a milkshake. 1940s photo courtesy of Paul Kantus and the Noe Valley Archives

borhood. I'm for small business."

Many people might be surprised to hear such pronouncements from Harry Aleo. Most 24th Street habitués know him only from his storefront window, where for years they have viewed his collection of Republican memorabilia, American flags, and anti-Clinton political cartoons with a mixture of curiosity and disdain. But it would be a mistake to pigeonhole Aleo as a right-wing conservative. He might even be called a progressive, based upon his efforts on behalf of the neighborhood over the years.

He also has something in common with Clinton: they're both saxophone players. Aleo recalls that when the mood struck

**"You can't keep a chain store out just because they're a chain, although I wish you could. But there are other ways, like [looking at] the impact on traffic and parking they create, and by limiting the area size of the business. I want to maintain the small-town charm of the neighborhood. I'm for small business."**

—Harry Aleo

him, he'd bring out his sax and entertain the neighborhood groups who used to meet at Willopi Hall.

That was back in the '50s, before the hall was condemned by the city. You can thank Harry Aleo for the existence of the public parking lot that sits there now (between Hopwell's and Radio Shack).

When Willopi Hall was put up for sale after being condemned in 1961, Aleo was afraid it would be purchased and turned into something that didn't fit the quiet neighborhood. He wanted to buy it himself, but lacked the \$30,000 asking price. He eventually convinced 19 other businesses to acquire it with him (in the name of a title company to ensure anonymity). They then turned around and sold it to the city (for the same amount), upon the city's assurance that the building would be demolished and the space used for a public parking lot. The lot opened in 1963.

Aleo stayed active in the neighborhood by joining the original Noe Valley Merchants Association (NVMA). He served as president several times in the '60s and early '70s, until a couple of divisive issues created a rift in the organization. One faction wanted to institute street fairs, and also promoted an idea with more serious ramifications for 24th Street: "They want-

ed to change the zoning to allow second-floor businesses," says Aleo. He and other like-minded members vehemently opposed both ideas, so they left the NVMA in 1974 and formed the Business & Professional Association of Noe Valley.

"After a lengthy battle we stopped the zoning change and kept businesses from the second floors," Aleo says. "If we had lost, 24th Street would not be the same today, since commercial rents are much higher than residential." In other words, all those upper floors would be offices, and we'd have even fewer apartments for rent.

Several years later, the two merchants' groups reunited when it became apparent that their goals had coalesced once again.

Aleo and fellow realtor Armando Bolanos met with NVMA's president at the time, Vi Gianaras (of Panos' Restaurant, now closed), who assured him that the second-floor-business advocates were gone. The current Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association arose out of that meeting, and 24th Street has remained free of new second-floor businesses ever since.

Aleo is still involved with the group, and he was recently honored as Merchant of the Year by the Council of District Merchants Association. Aleo shrugs off the honor by saying, "If you live long enough, good things will eventually happen to you."

It is now past Aleo's closing time, but he agrees to take a few more questions. Still wondering about his perception of the *Voice*, I suggest that the *Twin Peaks Sentinel*, a weekly neighborhood newspaper in the 1930s, was just as "radical" in its time as the *Voice* is now. "The *Sentinel* wasn't radical!" exclaims Aleo. "They just printed the news."

To prove his point, he jumps up and rummages through a box of papers, then pulls out a February 1941 issue of the *Sentinel*. He's right, too. There is no way that the headlines about the annual Police Ball, the Columbia Park Boys' Club variety show, or the doings of the Willopi Council could be considered subversive.

"You just want to stir up controversy," he says about the *Voice*. He points to the James Lick—Just for Fun brouhaha as a recent example. "One kid shoplifts, a store owner chases him and hurts himself in the process, you publicize it, and now we have all these meetings. It was blown totally out of proportion."

But realizing that he's been steered away from the old days, Aleo puts up his guard again. "What else do you want to know?" he says.

How about what's right with Noe Valley? Aleo gazes out toward 24th Street and smiles at a passing stroller brigade. "Well, it's good to see that babies are in season again. I like that."

And how about the old days versus now? "This is still one of the best neighborhoods in the city," Aleo says. "But it was a different life then, and you guys missed it." □

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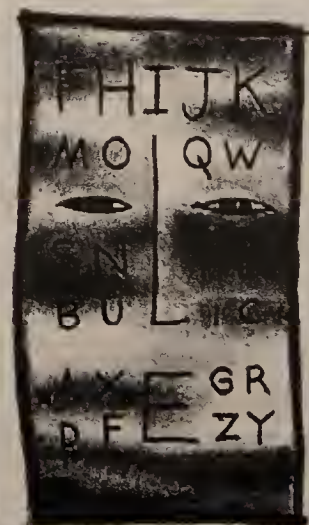
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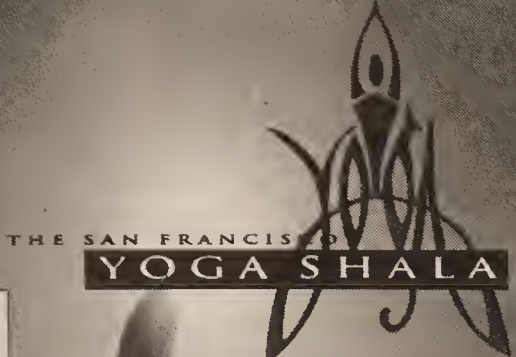
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## LETTERS 33 CENTS

*Continued from Page 61*

Breast Cancer Action, a nonprofit grassroots education and advocacy organization based in San Francisco, would like to see the stamp legislation amended to specify that the funds allocated to the NIH be directed to the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), where research into the environmental links to cancer is being done.

*Voice* readers who support this view should write a letter to Harold Varmis, Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, and send a copy to Senator Dianne Feinstein, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Let's find the causes and end the epidemic.

Barbara A. Brenner  
 Executive Director  
 Breast Cancer Action  
 Noe Valley Resident

### Go Climb a Few More Hills

Editor:

We read and thoroughly enjoy your paper, particularly those stories about neighborhood walks. [*Voicer* Jim Christie has written two recent features about hikes: "Go Climb a Hill," in the September 1998 issue, and "Twin Peaks in 20 Minutes...on Foot," April 1999 *Voice*.]

So we thought your readers might like to try these hikes. Each explores a different part of Noe Valley, and takes a half-hour or so. (They vary in length from 15 to 45 minutes.) They're all scenic by day, and even more so in the evenings when the lights of the city come on.

They vary in difficulty, but most have some uphill sections. The flattest hike is the one on Church Street. "What Goes Up" is a good warm-up, with enough hill work to make your legs feel it.

Two of the walks—"Sanchez Hill" and "The Harry Steps"—have steep spots, so get your hiking legs before you tackle them. My personal favorite is "The Harry Steps," which is a guaranteed aerobic workout. All begin at Sanchez and Jersey.

By the way, my wife Patty and I are eight-year residents of Noe Valley. We enjoy the diversity and sense of history this wonderful neighborhood offers. We live with our calico kitty, Molly, on Jersey Street.

Dale Fehring



### Want to Be a Stringer?

ARE YOU a neighborhood newshound? Would you like to contribute to your hometown rag?

The *Voice* welcomes freelance journalists, especially those with their finger on the pulse of Noe Valley. Right now we could use more coverage on the "Storetrek" and "Short Takes" beats. If you have an interest in reporting (we pay per story), send a note to Sally Smith, Editor, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Please include a phone number. We'll let you know the scoop.—Eds.

## Five Scenic Hikes

*Field-tested by Dale and  
 Patty Fehring*

### 1. What Goes Up

This "warm-up" hike involves some hill work and a long, gradual downhill. It is especially good at twilight. Note the row of Victorians at 22nd and Vicksburg and the view of Diamond Heights on your return from Sanchez Hill.

*Start:* Sanchez and Jersey.

*Route:* Jersey 1 block east to Vicksburg. Left on Vicksburg (uphill) to the end, at 22nd.

Left on 22nd 1 block to Sanchez.

Left on Sanchez to Jersey.

*Views:* Bay Bridge, Twin Peaks, Diamond Heights

*Length:* Approx. 15 minutes

### 2. Church Street

This flat hike follows Church Street and the J-Church streetcar, then returns via Sanchez Street. On Church, notice St. Paul's, where *Sister Act* was filmed.

*Start:* Sanchez and Jersey.

*Route:* Jersey Street east 2 (short) blocks to Church Street.

Right on Church to 30th.

Right on 30th to Sanchez.

Right on Sanchez to Jersey.

*Views:* Diamond Heights

*Length:* 20 to 30 minutes

### 3. Right On

There's a good view of Twin Peaks on this hike, which mixes relatively flat blocks and a stretch of uphill streets. If you hike at dusk, notice the stained-glass windows in Bethany Church at Clipper and Sanchez.

*Start:* Sanchez and Jersey.

*Route:* Sanchez south to 26th.

Right on 26th to Douglass.

Right on Douglass to Jersey.

Right on Jersey to Sanchez.

*Views:* Twin Peaks, Douglass Park

*Length:* Approx. 20 minutes

### 4. Sanchez Hill

There is a steep hill at the beginning of this medium-distance hike, and wonderful nighttime views of downtown San Francisco, the Civic Center, the Bay Bridge, and Twin Peaks.

*Start:* Sanchez and Jersey.

*Route:* Sanchez north over the hill and around to Liberty Street.

Left on Liberty 2 blocks to Rayburn.

Left on Rayburn 1 block to 21st.

Right on 21st 1 block to Noe.

Left on Noe to Jersey.

Left on Jersey to Sanchez.

*Views:* Downtown San Francisco, the Civic Center, Bay Bridge, Twin Peaks, and the Mission

*Length:* 20 to 30 minutes

### 5. Harry Steps

This is the longest and probably the hardest of the hikes. It guarantees an aerobic workout as you climb up Harry on your way to Diamond Heights. Take rest breaks to enjoy the gardens on both sides of the Harry Steps (a residential "street") and views of the Bay Bridge and Twin Peaks.

*Start:* Sanchez and Jersey.

*Route:* Sanchez south past 30th to Randall.

Right on Randall 1 block to Harper.

Left on Harper 1 block to Laidley.

Right on Laidley a few doors to Harry (the steps are on the left/south side of the street, before Noe Street).

Right at the top of the steps (Beacon); down then up the hill and around to Diamond.

Right on Diamond to Jersey.

Right on Jersey to Sanchez.

*Views:* Panoramas of downtown, Twin Peaks, and Bernal Heights

*Length:* Approx. 45 minutes



# How to Avoid Having Your Car Ripped Off

*Continued from Page 1*

was stolen too. Maybe if you run outside, you might be able to catch him!”

Great, Colgan thought, the whole street's been targeted.

Not in the mood to run outside, she asked the police to send an officer anyway, which they did a few hours later. “He took a verbal description of the car, and gave me a case number, to pass on to my insurance company.”

Colgan then called State Farm Insurance, and reported the theft to her agent, who promptly launched an investigation. State Farm also offered to pay for part of a rental car.

Meanwhile, back at the police station, her car's description—a white, four-door '98 Honda Civic EX with sun roof—was entered in the statewide computer database of stolen cars. Her case was then forwarded to the SFPD's Auto Detail on Bryant Street.

Within 24 hours, news came back that the car had been found, in Oakland. It had been towed by the Oakland Police Department and was sitting in a towing yard in the East Bay. However, the Honda had been totally stripped of its parts.

“It looked like a plucked chicken. The insurance agent told me it was a very professional job,” Colgan said. So professional, in fact, that the thieves had gotten away scot-free. (In the three months since the theft, Colgan has not heard a peep from police.)

After State Farm's mechanics went over the car, they determined it would cost almost as much to fix the Honda as to replace it. The insurance company decided to “total” the car because the repair cost was so high.

Of course, the “total” cost of the car, as defined by the insurance company, was based on its current market value, not the value when Colgan had driven it off the dealer's lot nine months earlier. Colgan would have to come up with \$4,000, if she wanted to duplicate the car she'd had two days before.

Next, Colgan was required to go to the San Francisco Police Department in person, with her driver's license and her pink slip. There she got a special release, which would allow her insurance company to take her car from the police lot. She faxed the release to the towing yard.

Then she had to take the title of the car, again in person, down to her insurance company, and hand it over to them before they would issue her a check.

A week later, Colgan was still driving a rental car—one not completely covered by insurance—and trying to find the time to research and buy a new car.

## Noe Valley Has 7 to 16 Thefts a Month

It may be of small consolation to her, but according to local police, Colgan's kind of nightmare is pretty rare in our neck of the woods.

Most stolen cars are recovered, and 85 percent can still be driven, says Mission Police Officer Lois Perillo, who regularly patrols the northern half of Noe Valley. (Her beat runs from 21st to Cesar Chavez, and Valencia to Grand View.)

Still, Perillo says there are about 16 cars stolen per month on her turf, and an equal number — if not more — of car break-ins.

As for southern Noe Valley—the part covered by Ingleside police (from Cesar Chavez to Randall and Mission to Douglass)—in 1998 there were 11 cars stolen on average per month. So far in 1999, the figure is down to 7 cars a month.

And sometimes the culprits are caught, Perillo says. “A tip from a UPS driver recently led to an arrest.” The driver called police after he saw a man looking into parked cars along Dolores Street. Police were able to arrest the suspect, who was booked on two felonies and a misdemeanor. (“Boosting,” or stealing the contents from a car, is classified as a “petty theft,” and is a felony that can lead to a year in county jail. Stealing a car, “grand theft auto,” is also a felony, but can bring a sentence of up to six years.)

## Rates Decline in San Francisco

Sergeant Rich VanKoll, an inspector with the SFPD's Auto Detail, who spoke to residents at a community meeting at Ingleside Police Station this spring, says the good news is that car thefts are on the decline in San Francisco.

The rate has dropped 45 percent in the past six years, he says. Police statistics show that in 1992 there were 12,508 auto thefts in the city. In 1998, that number had been cut almost in half: 6,834.

According to VanKoll, one reason might be that the Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force has been operating with extra funding in recent years. A 1992 state law now requires that \$1 of every vehicle registration fee go to fight car theft. VanKoll also thinks law enforcement has improved due to better community relations, more effective prosecution of criminals, and better training of police officers.

This year, the Auto Detail is focusing on thefts from unattended parking lots. They are also placing decoy cars in trouble spots. The decoy will be an invitation for thieves to steal, and when they do, they will be caught, VanKoll says.

## The Cars the Bad Guys Prefer

So what are the thieves' favorite cars? The ones whose parts fetch a premium on the stolen goods market, VanKoll says. Those include late-model Volkswagens, Toyota Camrys, and Honda Accords. Also preyed upon are Mustangs built after 1986, since their parts are interchangeable.

To counteract parts dealing, components of newer cars are now tagged with I.D. numbers, which correspond to the VIN (vehicle identification number). These assist detectives in their recovery of stolen vehicles and parts.

Thieves often get into a car by forcing the lock or breaking a rear or “wing” window. Then they hot-wire the car. “Or some people use master keys to turn on the ignition,” says VanKoll.

Officer Perillo notes that car thefts and break-ins are more likely to occur on dark, quiet streets. They also increase seasonally, especially in December when there may be gifts or luggage in the car. “We also could see more in the summer, since even car thieves don't like to go out in the rain,” she says.

## Ways to Keep from Being a Target

Still, there are several things drivers can do to protect their wheels. Ron Naso, of San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone; 553-1984), offers these pointers:

☞ Never leave personal items in your car. Put valuables, or anything you don't want stolen, in the trunk.

☞ Park in a garage if possible. Make sure the garage door closes securely.

☞ Curb your wheels (even on level surfaces). And always leave your car in gear or in “Park.”

☞ Never leave your home address, phone number, house keys, or garage door opener in the car. Don't make it easy for someone to burglarize your house if your car is stolen.

☞ Make copies of your car registration and proof of insurance, and then cut or mask out the address information on the copies. Keep the copies in your glove box

and the originals in your wallet.

☞ Purchase a “Club”-type steering wheel lock, or a car alarm. “These will at least slow the thieves down,” says Naso.

He also cautions that there are four to six carjackings a month in San Francisco. “Remember to lock your doors and drive defensively.”

## Locks, Alarms, and Tracking Systems

Like Naso, Officer Perillo recommends using the Club or similar locking devices, which range in price from \$25 to \$50. They're an effective deterrent, she says. “But be sure to get the right style of lock for your wheel, or you may be paying for a new airbag.”

If you use a car alarm, Perillo asks that you set it for the normal amount of motion and vibration in the city. Sensitive car alarms are a nuisance, she says. (Your neighbors will wish that your car *had* been stolen if your alarm is constantly tripped by passing trucks and motorcycles.)

Some residents should consider giving up their cars and using public transportation. But if you must own a car—and if the sky's the limit—buy a Lexus, BMW, Mercedes, or high-end Honda. These cars will start only by reading a special microchip imbedded in the car key. Inexperienced thieves soon discover that they can't be hot-wired, and professional thieves usually choose another target. (“Immobilizer” systems like these are also available off the rack, and can be installed in a car for about \$200.)

Meanwhile, Inspector VanKoll thinks the future antidote to car thefts will be the Lojack System, which should be online in San Francisco in the next month or so. Lojack, already in use on the East Coast, uses special transmitters to track your car if it is stolen. (VanKoll says keep an eye out for information on where and when you can get the transmitters installed.) The car's location is always known, reducing the need for a high-speed police chase. A car transmitting its whereabouts can also lead police to a chop-shop operation—the kind of place that plucked Victoria Colgan's car clean.

## She's Recovering, Thank You

As for Colgan, she is now driving a new car with basic fabric upholstery. She has also purchased the Club.

“I wasn't too attached to my car, and I didn't have anything of value in the car when it was stolen, but I am wary. I don't want this to happen to me again.” ☐

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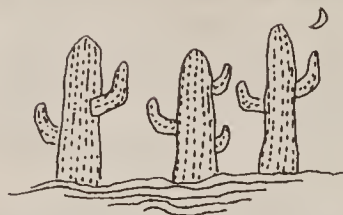
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## LETTERS 33¢



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### A 1-Bedroom Was \$60 in the '60s

Editor:

I lived in Noe Valley many years ago and enjoy reading your publication on the Internet. During the mid- and late '60s, I resided at one time or another on Sanchez, upper Castro, Elizabeth, and 24th streets. As I recall, I paid about \$60 a month for my one-bedroom apartment on Castro, which looked out the rear window to a great view of the city.

It's been a long time since I lived in San Francisco (1977), but Noe Valley was always my favorite neighborhood. I hope to visit there again someday. Many thanks for your informative and entertaining newspaper.

Mike Mitchell

Las Cruces, New Mexico

P.S. For no reason in particular, I've enclosed a xeroxed photo of myself outside 1643 Castro St. I was on my way to the *Nutcracker*. That was 1965 — quite a while ago!

*You look great, Mike. Thanks for writing.—Eds.*

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# POLICE BEAT

## Armed Bandits Rob Two Coffee Shops

By Officer Lois Perillo

Noe Valley reported two robberies in April. In both cases, weapons were displayed, but thankfully no one was hurt.

On Sunday, April 25, at 2:12 a.m., a 45-year-old man entered Happy Donuts at 24th and Church streets, brandished a handgun, and demanded money.

When the 47-year-old worker opened the cash register, the suspect took the money and ran from the shop to a waiting blue mini-truck with a partial license plate of "SVQ." The truck then fled east on Jersey Street. If anyone has any additional information about this crime, please contact me at 558-5404.

In the other robbery, on Friday, April 2, at 7:15 p.m., three males in their late teens entered a coffee shop on the 1300 block of Church Street. One teen proceeded to threaten the 32-year-old worker with a knife and then stole the tip jar. Two of the teens fled on the J-Church street-car, and the other ran away on foot.

Police were called to the scene. They contacted Muni and searched the area, but were unable to find the suspects.

Unfortunately, the same Church Street business was targeted in a burglary on Wednesday, April 28, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. A crime technician took fingerprints from the scene, but none were matched to a suspect.

### 'Friend' Accused of Assault

There were a total of 15 reported burglaries within my area of Noe Valley during April. Six involved houses, five were apartments, one was a garage, and three were in commercial spaces (including the coffee shop incident described above).

One incident, on Friday, April 30, at about 9 a.m., was also classified as an assault. A 22-year-old man reported that a childhood friend of the same age forced

his way into his home on the 100 block of Clipper Street and then assaulted him with a knife. The suspect disputed that account and claimed that the targeted man assaulted him first, after they had argued over money. The suspect was booked on two felony counts of burglary and assault and on other unrelated warrants. He was held at county jail, but released on Monday, May 3, after the other man withdrew his complaint.

### Domestic Violence Hits Two Homes

Two people reported that they were the targets of domestic violence during April.

On Friday, April 23, an 18-year-old woman, who had initially called a domestic violence worker to her Guerrero Street home during an assault by her 28-year-old boyfriend, decided to report the incident to police. The police subsequently arrested the suspect and charged him with a felony after noting bruises on the woman's arms and knees. The suspect was held for a day at county jail, then released. The court record listed the victim as unavailable.

On Friday, April 30, a 47-year-old woman allegedly attacked her husband of 17 years with a small knife, causing injury to his hand. She also struck her husband's 51-year-old sister while the sister phoned police from her brother's home on the 3600 block of 23rd Street. The incident appeared to involve alcohol abuse by the suspect.

Officers Ray Salvador and Carlos Gutierrez responded to the sister's call at around 5 p.m. and arrested the suspect, who was charged with two felonies and three misdemeanors. The District Attorney's Office re-booked the suspect on three counts of felony assault and one count of misdemeanor vandalism for damaging the telephone.

She was held at county jail until May 12, then released upon posting bond.

### Man Arrested for Stalking

On Friday, April 30, at 12:15 p.m., a 23-year-old man was arrested at 24th and Guerrero streets and charged with felony stalking of his ex-girlfriend of the same age. According to the targeted woman, the suspect repeatedly approached her at home and on the street, despite their breakup and her advising him not to try to contact her.

The suspect admitted to his behavior and was subsequently booked, but the D.A. declined to prosecute the case at the present time, so the man was released. However, a restraining order was issued, prohibiting him from having any contact with the woman for a period of five days. The woman may extend the order by applying to Superior Court.

### Yuppie Blues

On Wednesday, April 28, sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. the next morning, someone forced entry into an apartment building on my beat and used red paint to leave the message "F\*\*\* YUPPIES" in the lobby.

For readers of the *SF Weekly* column "Laurel's Dog Bites," and for residents and patrons of the Mission District, the continued existence of the so-called Yuppie Eradication Project is no surprise. But when the unsettling (and often illegal) byproducts of this group's propaganda are expressed with ugly words painted on public and private structures, or the intentional damage of another's property, the entire community suffers.

No one's awareness is raised. No minds are changed. No SUVs are morphed into VW vans or bicycles. No lofts are certified as artists' live/work spaces. No constructive purpose is served whatsoever. Instead, a criminal act is committed, and hatred is released into our midst.

Until next month be safe, and I'll see you on patrol. □

*San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.*

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**Dance the Year Away.** A Lion Dance celebrating the lunar new year rocked residents in front of Zephyr Realty on 24th Street in February. *Photo by Beverly Thorp*



**Rocking in the Year of the Rabbit.** Lion Dancers also entertained the kids at Eureka Learning Center preschool on Diamond Street in February. *Photo provided by Cynthia Chong*

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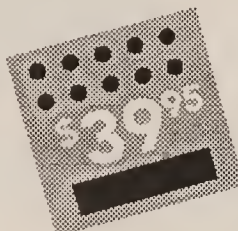
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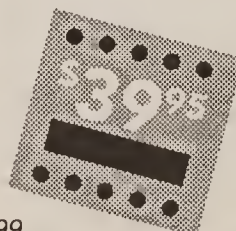
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# Local Book Shops Trade on Their Unique Talents

Continued from Page 1

So what's the secret of their success?

In the eyes of Kate Rosenberger—who opened **Phoenix Books & Records** 14 years ago, just a few doors down from its current location at 3850 24th St. (near Vicksburg)—it's finding the right niche.

"We're predominantly selling second-hand books," Rosenberger explains. "Amazon.com and the big chain stores are really just for new books. Even though Amazon.com will do searches for secondhand books, it's very different than walking into your neighborhood used bookstore and poking around."

Small bookstores would also be wise to diversify. In addition to used books and a smaller selection of new books, Rosenberger sells audiotapes and CDs.

And she knows her customers' tastes. When Rosenberger opened Phoenix in 1985, she lived on Jersey Street, within walking distance of the store. "Noe Valley was one of the old hippie hangouts then. Now it's more like the Marina," she says. "We definitely used to sell more counterculture. We still do, but it's almost like it's a different generation that we're selling to. I've seen kids grow up, go to college, and come back. It's like, 'Wow, I remember you when you were 6!'"

Rosenberger, who launched a second store, **Dog Eared Books**, on Valencia Street in 1992, gets her share of tourists at both places, but says Noe Valley residents remain her "bread and butter, absolutely. There are a lot of well-read people here. We sell a lot of history. We sell a fair amount of nonfiction. And then also a lot of mysteries and science fiction, thought-provoking material. We don't sell a whole bunch of fluff."

She thinks Noe Valley's three top book shops all have distinct personalities. "The big picture in Noe Valley is that each bookstore has really tried to provide the neighborhood with the best they could for the neighborhood. We all have our own ideas about what that means."

That's certainly the case with the old-timer on the block, **The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore**, which opened 23 years ago on the corner of 24th and Diamond streets.

Like Rosenberger, Mystery Bookstore owner Bruce Taylor has felt the encroachment of the Internet and the big chain stores on the book business. "Absolutely, there's no way around it," says Taylor. But relocating his store three years ago to 4175 24th St.—between Castro and Diamond—has proved to be a shrewd move. "The new store is much bigger, and it allows me to display more books," says Taylor, whose old shop barely had enough room for a person to turn around in. "It's allowed us to expand not only our hours, but the breadth of the books we can offer."

However, the main clue to the store's longevity is his love of whodunits. "I specialize in one specific area—crime fiction," Taylor says. "And I work very hard at offering the best selection of inexpensive mystery and detective fiction on the planet."

He and his staff all know their P.D. James from their James Lee Burke, and keep a running tally of writers, characters, and plots at the store. "I sell on opinions, on selection and knowledgeability," Taylor says. "You can come in here and say, 'I don't remember the name or the author of the book but it's set in Detroit,' and you'd have a reasonable expectation of somebody being able to figure out what book you're talking about."



Browsers at Phoenix Books can pore over stacks and stacks of "thought-provoking" literature. Photo by Charles Kennard

Secondhand books comprise about half of the store's inventory. "What I've come to realize is that for whatever reason—economically or philosophically—there are some book buyers who won't buy a new book, paperback or hardback," notes Taylor.

He also maintains a web site (<http://members.aol.com/sfmybooks/signings.htm>) and an e-mail list, to alert

3812 24th St., next to the laundromat at Church and 24th.

And the shop, which until February occupied the same spot on 24th Street for 16 years (near Sanchez), will continue to please its devoted following by lending its own brand of personal service.

Still, Salan—who opened the original Cover to Cover on Clement Street in 1976—acknowledges the harsh realities that most small bookstores face today.

"Most of America's books, up until about 12 or 15 years ago, were sold in independent bookstores," Salan says. "We used to have a little better than 50 percent of the market. Now we have 17 percent. Over 2,000 bookstores have gone out of business in the last 10 years."

However, some shops—particularly those in Northern California, she says—have managed to hang on because "we're an aggressive and feisty bunch. You've got to be quicker, leaner, meaner, and faster. What I think independent bookstores do better than anybody is they hire people who can't live without books, and who love talking to people about books and who read books. They're also incredibly wonderful to their customers."

It's not unusual for Salan or her staff to bring books to the hospital, "because some customer was not well and really needed to read a certain book. Or people pull up in cars, and you run out the door and hand them their wrapped book. This



Mystery Bookstore owner Bruce Taylor (standing near desk) hosted an April signing by Gregg Andrew Hurwitz, author of *The Tower*. The authors' visits and Taylor's own knowledgeability about crime fiction are key to the success of the 23-year-old shop. Photo by Charles Kennard

customers to book signings at the shop. The authors' visits are an enticement for mystery buffs all over the Bay Area. Taylor has hosted such luminaries as Tony Hillerman, Sue Grafton, and Walter Mosley. "I had James Ellroy here two weekends ago, and it's the biggest crowd I've ever had. Yes, signings are a good thing—they bring people into the store."

Lots more book signings, writing classes, storytelling, crafts for kids, comfy chairs, and even dog training in the backyard patio (yes, dog training) are some of the things that owner Nicky Salan is offering at her new, more spacious **Cover to Cover Booksellers** at

is the kind of stuff that chain bookstores can't do."

Salan has a strong passion for children's books, and that's reflected in the large selection at Cover to Cover. "We're actually known throughout the city for our children's books."

Plus, the store sells reams of literary fiction and nonfiction. Customers devour everything from Salman Rushdie to Anne Lamott. Notes Salan, "Noe Valley is the most intelligent community. People are really thoughtful, careful readers around here. And they have been wonderful to us."

On Cover to Cover's moving day, over 250 people showed up, "with their dogs

and their kids at 9 o'clock in the morning on a Saturday to help us. It was just amazing," Salan says. A human "book brigade" was formed, and books were passed hand to hand down 24th Street.

Salan is also grateful to her new landlord, Bassem Sirhed. "He came and got us, literally," she says. Sirhed walked into the store last December, introduced himself, and explained that he had just built a new space specifically for a bookstore and wanted Cover to Cover to occupy it. "He turned down some big outfits," Salan recalls. "And he gave us a finished building—carpeted, painted, done. All we had to do was put in the bookcases."

The new store sports a mezzanine, which provides a cozy nook for the Mother-Daughter Book Discussion Club, among other groups and classes. An outdoor patio has been outfitted with benches and potted plants.

Salan says the store now sponsors appearances by nationally known and local authors at a rate of two to three a month. "We've had lots of neighborhood people who have written books," she points out.

Seven-year staffer Susan Talbott, who helps coordinates Cover to Cover's schedule of events, adds that the shop will host a summer crafts and activities program for kids. Drop by or call to sign up, or get the scoop at Cover to Cover's web site, [www.covertocoversf.com](http://www.covertocoversf.com). The store will also put you on the mailing list for its newsletter, published three times a year.

And customers who can't make it down to 24th Street will soon be able to purchase from Cover to Cover online, via a program called Book Sense, launched by the American Booksellers Association. "The independent bookstores are working to build a database of close to two million titles," says Salan, "so when Book Sense is in place [sometime this summer], every independent bookstore in America will be able to do the same thing Amazon.com can do."

Salan says owning an independent bookstore will never be a huge money-maker. "But there's quite a lot of 'psychic income' in this business. You get wonderful feedback in your head instead of in your pocket." □

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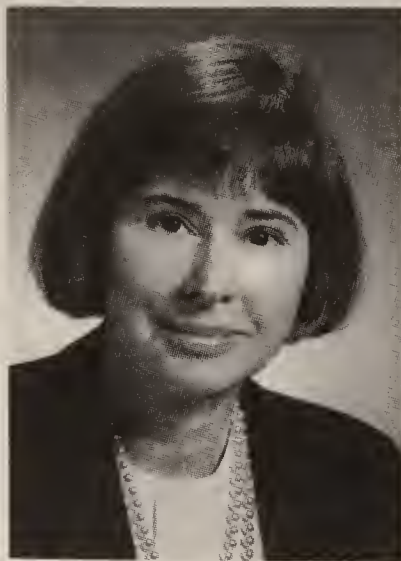


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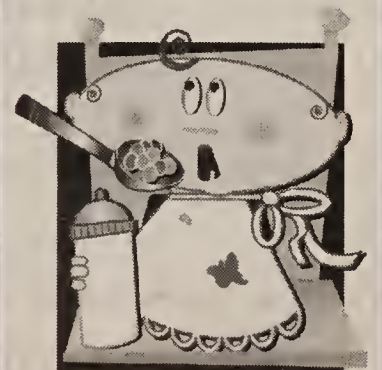
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## Juice It! To Juice Up James Lick

By Kathryn Guta

If you drop by Juice It! before June 10, you can do something good for kids that may be good for your body as well. While you swig down your fruit and vegetable smoothies, you can bolster some sagging educational enrichment programs at James Lick Middle School on Noe Street.

Tom Burwell and Dave Allen, owners of the juice bar at 24th and Sanchez streets, are donating 5 percent of their register receipts from May 10 until June 10 to the kids at James Lick. (Customers should drop their receipts in the box marked "James Lick.")

The way Tom and Dave look at it, they are giving back to a community that has given them a profitable business for the past three years. These two young business partners, both age 30, are former international tennis pros. Playing on grass at Wimbledon and on dirt in Africa, they competed in over 20 countries in four years. Juicing fruits and vegetables became a way of staying healthy in countries where food and hygiene standards were sometimes dubious.

When Tom and Dave decided to hang up their tennis rackets in 1996, they naturally turned to juicing as a new career path. Translating the discipline and hard work of the tennis court into an energetic work ethic, they bounced into small business on highly competitive 24th Street.

Their mission statement was simple: Make work a big party where everyone is invited. Their success has traveled across the Bay to Berkeley and down the peninsula to Los Gatos, where new Juice It! bars



Juicers of all ages, including store owner Dave Allen, turned out on Saturday, May 10, to launch a monthlong fundraiser for James Lick Middle School.

have sprung up in the past three years.

Raw energy was evident on Saturday, May 10, when the Juice It! owners and store manager Matt Brown kicked off the James Lick fundraiser with yellow balloons for all. The juice queues were long, but patrons didn't seem to mind as they chatted, listened to driving rock music, and enjoyed a chair massage with masseuse John Elke.

James Lick parent Celia Magtoto rejoined in the efforts of Tom and Dave to help make the school's programs succeed. "It takes a lot of work to raise a small amount of money for the schools," she said. "Some parents have taken out loans so that their kids can go on these educational trips."

Monica Magtoto was also happy for the boost. This sixth-grader will participate in a field trip to the banks of the Nile

in June, partly as a result of the extra help from Tom and Dave.

Fellow Lick student Michael Lathrop, age 12, enjoys playing baritone horn in the band. Nawal Wahhab, age 11, is an actress who wants to continue performing in skits and plays at school. Some of the Juice It! receipts will go toward purchasing new band instruments and funding arts and music projects.

According to Celia Magtoto, many language arts enrichment programs are on the chopping block as the school budget gets tighter and tighter.

Tom and Dave hope to expand their fundraising efforts to form a Juice It! Foundation, which will help support all Noe Valley schools. They say it takes a village to raise a child. And in this case, it's easy to lend a hand: Just drink your juice! □



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Noe Valley cartoonist Mark Ziemann will kick off a show of his paintings by sketching free caricatures of kids on June 19, 1 to 3 p.m., at Cafe J on Church Street.

## SHORT TAKES

### Douglass Playground Swings

Dorthe Deubler was turning cartwheels in late May. As head of the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association (NVNPIA), she'd just gotten word that Douglass Playground was being awarded brand-new playground equipment, to be installed this summer.

"I'm ecstatic," she said. "The people offering the equipment [Game Time] came out to the park, and they are definitely dedicated to making this a great playground. All the equipment will be donated." She and her group had been begging the Recreation and Park Department for months to replace the old teeter-totter, swings, metal slides, and wooden climbing structure in use since the 1970s.

Now she's asking the neighborhood to do its part and turn out for a community meeting on Monday, June 14. The meeting, cohosted by Rec and Park, is to give residents the opportunity to pick out the equipment — and decide such things as the color, number and type of swings, and whether the slides should be plastic or metal, open or covered. "We want to make it more toddler friendly, and accommodate the latchkey kids, too," said Deubler. "So now's the time for the people in the community to design what they want their kids to be playing on."

The meeting will start at 6:45 p.m. at the clubhouse at 26th and Douglass. If you want to hear about some of the options beforehand, call NVNPIA co-chair Krista Keegan at 550-9050.

—Sally Smith

### Boys in Good Voice

You *have* to be good to be singing for the pope on the eve of the millennium, and that's just what the Golden Gate Boys Choir will be doing six months from now, halfway around the globe. Closer to home and to now, on June 13 at 6:30 p.m., the Boys (with some fathers providing bass backup) will present a concert at St. Paul's Church at Church and 29th streets.

Day Street resident Franco Monda, one of the singing dads, testifies to the effect that the Choir has had on his 7½-year-old son, Alexander. "He feels great about performing," says Monda. "With a lot of boys, it tends to be, 'Singing is a girls' thing,' but once they get into the Choir, there's this pact of camaraderie."

In fact, the 32 boys currently involved, ages 7 to 18, are hoping that the June 13 concert will net them some new members from Noe Valley and beyond, and they invite would-be choristers and their parents

to call 431-1137 for info about auditions.

The June 13 program includes Randall Thompson's 30-minute "Ode to Virginia," as well as "Suogan," a Welsh lullaby, and "Bless the Lord, O My Soul," a Russian hymn. The Choir's bellringers, formed from choristers whose voices are changing, will present their own selections." Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for kids, on sale at the door or through St. Paul's.

—Jeff Kaliss

### The Topic Is Youth Violence

What can communities do to head off violence among children and adolescents? Two agencies with answers to that question will talk about their programs at a meeting of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley on June 10.

Carol Badran from the San Francisco Public Health Department will describe "Transitions," a 10-session program aimed at helping fifth-graders deal with violence and aggression, body image, relationships, loss, and self-development. Then Andres Soto from the Pacific Center for Violence Prevention will discuss work being done to reduce gun violence among youth.

"In view of what's been going on in the country, we thought this might give people a chance to learn and talk about some of the anxiety they're feeling," said Eleanore Gerhardt, a Friends of Noe Valley board member who helped organize the event. "We try to have timely topics."

The meeting, which will be held at the Noe Valley Library (451 Jersey St.) at 7:45 p.m., is open to the public.

For more information, call Friends of Noe Valley at 285-8016.

—Mark Robinson

### A Cartoonist Gets Artsy

Jersey Street artist Mark Ziemann had always drawn cartoons. But while studying at the Art Institute of Chicago and the American Academy of Art (also in Chicago), he had wide exposure to fine arts.

Now the "Z-Man" is bringing these two worlds together with an exhibit of his bright, pop art paintings at neighborhood cafes. (The exhibit also includes painted vinyl records and muffin tins.)

Some of his art works are already on display at Muddy Waters Coffee House at 262 Church St. (near 15th). And on June 19, Ziemann will open a show in Noe Valley — at Cafe J, on Church Street.

On Saturday, Ziemann will be on hand from 1 to 3 p.m., drawing free caricatures of any children who stop by the cafe. An artist's reception will be held on Sunday, June 20, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The exhibit will continue through Aug. 1. Mark Ziemann will also keep teaching his classes in comic book illustration at San Francisco's Academy of Art College. For the scoop on the show or the artist, call 826-9488.

—Mark Robinson



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A storm of comedians and musicians will blow into town the night of June 19, for the sixth almost annual Evening of Song, held at the Noe Valley Ministry. Come fog or come smog, the performers will each do a four-minute tune on the theme "Weather...or Not."

## SHORT TAKES

### Hot Forecast for Eve of Song

Have you found yourself waiting for the J-car 'neath a foggy sky in Upper Noe Valley recently, when the lady next to you suddenly starts singing "Isn't It a Lovely Day"? That vocalizer may well have been Bermuda Schwartz, who lives and commutes to her day job from Duncan Street.

Schwartz and dozens of her musical colleagues have been rehearsing for an Evening of Song, which will happen at the Noe Valley Ministry on Saturday, June 19, at 8 p.m. In addition to Schwartz's reprise of that once popular tune, you may get to hear "Rainy Day Woman," "Lightning Strikes," or "Stormy Monday," since the theme for this year's hit parade is "Weather ... or Not."

"It's a variety show kind of thing," Schwartz explains, for those who've missed the five previous hilarious but harmonious Evenings, presented by Right-Brained Productions. "And it's geared toward the short attention span, because everyone gets just four minutes to sing one song." Musicians can perform either a standard, a rarity, or an original, as long as it's about sun, rain, sleet, hail ... or not.

Performers will include some of the best on the city's vocal circuit, including the Ethel Merman Memorial Choir, Gunnar Madsen, Rick and Ruby, and the *True Fiction* Magazine improv troupe—all under the musical direction of keyboardist J. Raoul Brody and his electrified band.

Keeping the music flowing will be emcee, comic, and sometime radio host Ian Shoales, a.k.a. Merle Kessler.

Tickets are available in advance at Streetlight Records (\$12), or at the door at 1021 Sanchez St. (\$14). Or call (415) 454-5238 for more info and outlets.

—Jeff Kaliss

### Volunteering Goes Digital

So you want to get involved in your community but don't know where to start? The Volunteer Center of San Francisco has a new web site that can help you make your move. The site, [www.vcsf.org](http://www.vcsf.org), includes details about 900 organizations that need volunteers.

The centerpiece of the new site is an interactive database of volunteer opportunities. It's searchable by key word, the type of work involved, and the organization's name or location.

Potential volunteers can find information about coaching youth athletics, helping hospital patients navigate the Internet,

restoring parks and trails, fundraising for AIDS organizations, mentoring students, and hundreds of other opportunities.

The site itself was built by volunteers from CNET, a San Francisco media company. To reach the Volunteer Center's community service program the old-fashioned way, call (415) 982-8999.

—Mark Robinson

### Looks Weird, Sounds Great

Larry Kasson, director of the Noe Valley Music Series, describes Oliver DiCicco as "a neighborhood treasure." And the praise fits. Not only has DiCicco been recording for other people (jazz, pop, classical) at his Mobius Studios on Sanchez Street for a couple of decades, but he's also been making music himself, on an assortment of original, handcrafted instruments. The current result is an ensemble of players called Mobius Operandi.

They'll appear at the Noe Valley Ministry at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, and if you've never experienced them, you won't believe either your ears or your eyes. "The music pulsates with tuneful insistence," notes *Examiner* critic Robert Hurwitz, "as the odd, rich tones emanating from DiCicco's metal, wood, and glass instruments mystify the senses."

Vocalists Pamela Winfrey and Christie Winn, along with multi-instrumentalists Jason Reinier and Peter Whitehead, appear with DiCicco in a refreshing approach to traditional song forms that is as much fun as it is fascinating.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door (at 1021 Sanchez St.). Call 454-5238 for information.

—Jeff Kaliss

### PAWS to Remember

If you're panting to help out a good cause, the fourth annual Doggone Fun Run may be the race for you. The 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) event features people and their dogs, running or walking through Golden Gate Park. The purpose: to raise money for PAWS, a group that supports people with AIDS who want to keep their pets.

PAWS volunteers assist clients with dog walking and litter-box cleaning. The money raised by the run will go for things like veterinary care and pet food. "As a volunteer and board member of PAWS, I can tell you firsthand how valuable the services PAWS provides are," says Matt O'Toole, a Glen Park resident.

The race will be held Sunday, June 13, from 9 a.m. to noon. You don't have to have a dog to participate, but organizers are asking for a minimum \$35 pledge. You may register on the day of the run or sign up in advance by calling PAWS at (415) 241-1460.

—Mark Robinson

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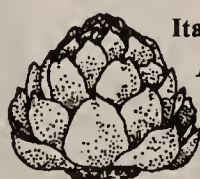


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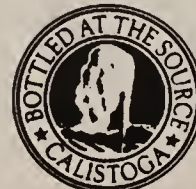
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# Electric Car Owners Love Their Ride

By Steve Steinberg

The automobile of the future has come to Noe Valley. Silent, emission-free, battery-operated electric cars are humming along neighborhood streets, their proud owners thumbing their noses at skyrocketing gas prices.

At least five of the new electric cars are tooling around the Valley. Three of them—two GM cars and a Honda—are owned by guys named Steve, who all agree that saving the environment is their top reason for driving an e-car.

"I have taken a step to show that we can do something to help the environment," says Steve Dibner, who lives on Cesar Chavez Street.

"We feel like pioneers," says Castro Street resident Steve Oddo. "I see this as the only way to stem our smog problems."

Both Oddo and Dibner lease the 1998 model EV1. The car is put out by General Motors and available through Saturn dealers. Dibner, a bassoonist with the San Francisco Symphony, and Oddo, an engineer with Dolby Laboratories, picked up their cars on Treasure Island on March 31, 1998, the first day the EV1 was available in Northern California. (The car had been introduced in Southern California and Arizona the previous year.)

The March 31 debut was something of a media event, with CNN providing coverage. Dibner called the day "one of the most exciting of my whole life." He had test-driven a prototype of the EV1 back in 1994 and had eagerly anticipated the moment when he could take one home.

Steve Braunstein, who lives on Jersey Street, and who, coincidentally, is also a bassoonist with the San Francisco Symphony, got a little bit of a jump on Oddo and Dibner with his Honda EV+, having leased his car at the end of February 1998.

## GM's Car Has a 'Wow' Dash

Braunstein's Honda looks pretty much like a smallish minivan, with no great design surprises in either the interior or exterior. The GM EV1 is a completely different story. Teardrop in shape, the car resembles a Citroen of the 1950s and '60s. The rear wheels are partially covered by the frame and are not parallel to the front wheels, which makes the car extremely aerodynamic, says Dibner.

But the big treat is inside the two-seater, where space-age design prevails. The car has keyless ignition—just punch in a code and hit "Run."

When you turn the engine on, the dashboard, looking like a cockpit in *Star Wars*, lights up. Curving around the base of the front window and all but invisible when the motor is off, the board is loaded with futuristic gauges. Dibner calls it the "Wow!" board, because that's what most people say the first time they see it.

The EV1 also has several other state-of-the-art features not found in regular cars: A climate control switch lets the driver precondition the cabin. A horn beeps when the car backs up. And because the car is so quiet, it comes with a special horn and light system the driver can use to warn pedestrians.

Braunstein's Honda is even quieter than the EV1, especially when it's idling. Asked to turn on his engine for a test drive, Braunstein exclaims, "It's on, it's on!"

Both models come with a special regenerative feature, which allows the car to partially recharge its batteries while coasting.



These three Noe Valley residents—(from left) Steve Dibner, Steve Braunstein, and Steve Oddo—are really revved up about their cars. Dibner and Oddo drive the sporty EV1 made by GM, while Braunstein's battery-run baby is the EV+ Honda.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

## Available for Lease Only

All the bells and whistles aside, the cars go a long way in the fight against air pollution. Their gasoline-free engines make them 97 percent cleaner than conventionally powered vehicles.

Neither the EV1 nor the EV+ can be purchased by consumers at this time. The manufacturers will only lease them, because they want to maintain control of this emerging technology. Customers may not even be able to renew their current three-year leases once they expire, since GM and Honda may want to disassemble the cars to see how they held up.

Though the cars can't be bought, GM's list price for the EV1 is about \$34,000. The Honda, which is handmade in Japan by the company's most elite workers, goes for \$54,000. The three Steves pay between \$399 and \$450 a month to lease their vehicles.

The lease includes all maintenance, even though there is almost nothing to maintain. The first scheduled maintenance for the cars is a tire rotation at 5,000 miles. (Replacement tires are also included in the lease.)

The cars require no oil changes, no tune-ups. They have no transmissions, no clutches, and no water pumps. And their brakes last a lot longer than those in regular cars. Under the hood there is very little to see: a couple of reservoirs for windshield washer fluid and power brake fluid, and a covered electric motor.

The heart of each car is a series of battery packs, located under and around the seats. The batteries provide the car's energy. (Honda has 24 of the packs, GM 26.)

## Speed: 0 to 60 in 9 Seconds

Braunstein says that when people find out he's driving an electric car, invariably their first question is, "How far can you go?" Well, that depends on how you drive the car.

Officially, the GM car will go 50 to 70 miles between charges, and the Honda anywhere from 75 to 120. The difference in range between the two cars has to do with their batteries. The GM uses a conventional lead-acid battery pack, while the Honda has a more advanced nickel-metal hydride battery, similar to the batteries used in computers.

As for "real world" mileage, Braunstein reports an average of 60 to 80 miles between charges in his Honda, but says he could do better if he didn't have to contend with San Francisco's hills. Oddo says he recently drove to Martinez and back, about 70 miles round trip, and still had some charge remaining.

Dibner prefers not to reveal his actual mileage, conceding that he drives his car pretty hard. "I drive the fastest, sexiest car on the road," he says. He is proud of the

fact that his EV1 will do zero to 60 in under nine seconds, and although it has a factory-set speed limit of 80 miles per hour, it has been clocked, he says, on the test track at 183 miles per hour.

Braunstein's Honda is no slouch in the acceleration department either. "It's as peppy a car as I've ever owned," he says, "even when it's carrying four adults."

Because there are no gears, both e-cars accelerate smoothly and silently. As the car speeds up, driver and passengers feel the same kind of G forces they'd feel in an airplane.

Each car comes equipped with its own battery recharging unit, which can be plugged in at special stations. GM maintains about 65 public charging stations in Northern California, with far more in Southern California. Honda has about 30. You generally find them at shopping malls, airports, and hotels. In San Francisco, there are stations at Fisherman's



PHOTO BY DONNA PELTZ

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Nevertheless, the three Steves opted to have their own personal charging stations installed in their garages—at a cost of between \$800 and \$1,600.

## Plug the Car into a Wall

A complete recharge takes about three hours, notes Dibner, although a basic charge can be attained in one. The cars also come with a portable charging unit, so that if you're not near a charging station, you can literally plug the car into a wall. (It takes a lot longer to do it this way, however.)

Continued on Next Page

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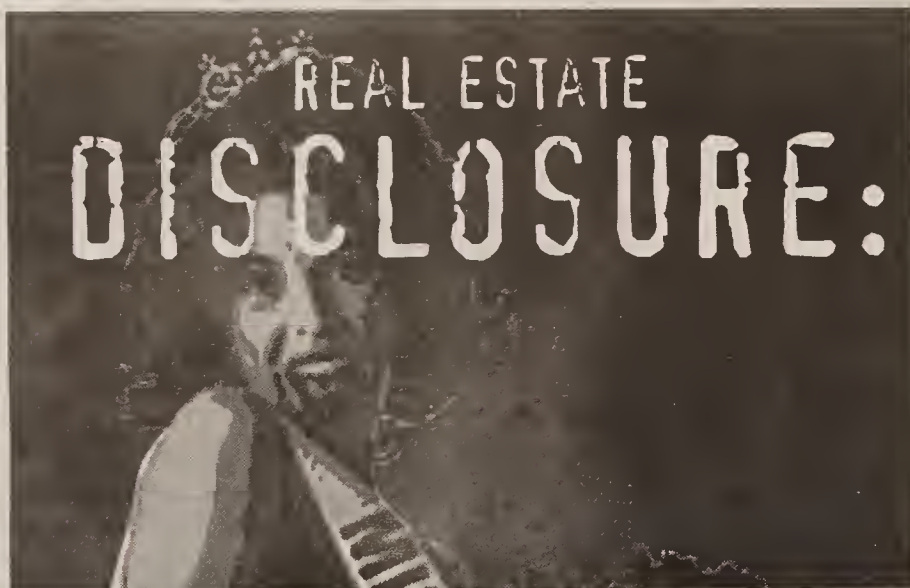
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## Noe Valley's Electric Car Club

*Continued from Previous Page*

If you really get stranded—you're not near a station and you're totally out of power—GM and Honda will provide free towing. Honda also gives its customers coupons for free car washes.

And what is all this battery-charging doing to the PG&E bills of e-car owners? Not much, say the three Steves.

Dibner and Braunstein report an almost imperceptible increase in their bills. Oddo says his bill has gone up maybe \$30 a month. But the owners make it a point to recharge only during off-peak billing hours.

Braunstein figures it costs him about three cents a mile to operate his car. "I couldn't help chuckling the day gas prices started going up," he says. (That's despite the fact that, like Dibner and Oddo, he owns a regular, gas-operated car, too.)

### The Future of E-Cars

Still, all three Steves are committed to the e-car era. They've been fascinated by the technology for over a decade. Ten years ago, Braunstein considered electrifying his old VW Rabbit. The plan went by the wayside, but "I had the bug in my ear." Oddo actually planned to start his own conversion business a few years ago, but decided to drop the idea because of the expense.

Dibner has a family connection that has given him a unique insight into the electric car industry. His stepfather is an inventor, who has been working with General Motors in Michigan to produce the nickel-metal hydride battery. Dibner says that even though GM was one of the first car manufacturers to come out with an e-car, the company "would like the whole thing to go down the drain." He claims that GM has too many links to Big Oil to

want the e-car to succeed.

Braunstein points out that the only reason electric cars are on the road at all is because the California Air Resources Board mandated that by 1998 two percent of all cars sold in California had to be emission-free. The mandate didn't stipulate the method manufacturers had to use, Braunstein says, but e-cars were really the only solution. The Air Resources Board later pushed back by five years (to 2003) the deadline for cleaner cars, and raised the requisite number to 10 percent, but by then the e-cars were already in production.

Honda produced 300 EV+s for California last year, while GM made about 600 of the EV1s. Toyota, Nissan, and Chrysler also make e-cars, but according to Braunstein, they are only available to fleet customers.

So what about the future of electric vehicles? Oddo says a better battery will make all the difference: "Batteries are the single biggest obstacle to achieving widespread acceptance."

And conveniently, it looks as if newer, longer-lasting batteries are on the way. Dibner and Oddo note that the 1999 GM models of the EV1, due out in a few months, will come equipped with an improved nickel-metal battery. The new cars should fully recharge in about an hour. And, says Oddo, they will run for 120 to 200 miles between charges. Both Dibner and Oddo say they plan to trade up to the '99 model.

Dibner and Braunstein think that another "logical next step" in electric car technology will be a hybrid, combining battery and gas-powered components. (Honda announced in late April that it would soon come out with such a hybrid. At the same time, the car manufacturer said it would be discontinuing the EV+, citing a lack of consumer response.)

Whatever that next step is, everyone agrees it has to be better than paying \$1.77 a gallon at the pump. □

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# STORE TREK

By Jim Christie

Storetrek is a regular feature of the *Voice* introducing new shops and businesses in the neighborhood. This month we feature a homeopathy office, an international gift and clothing bazaar, and a pet supplies store offering special adventures for dogs.

## Homeopathy 1199 Sanchez St. (at 25th Street) 415-695-8200

You might have noticed that for the past year and a half a small clinic has occupied the ground floor of a corner building at 25th and Sanchez streets. Then again, perhaps you haven't, because the only thing identifying it is the word "Homeopathy" stenciled in white in the window.

If you're wondering what homeopathy is, Noe Valley resident and professional homeopath Richard Pitt will be glad to explain. "Homeopathy is a system of health care that treats the whole person," says Pitt. "Homeopathic remedies stimulate the body's own immune system to respond to illness. Therefore the body cures itself. We consider the functions of mind and body to be intimately connected. We also try to understand the underlying reasons for illness."

Pitt hails from Bristol, England, and he began practicing homeopathy in 1984. He moved to San Francisco in 1989, where he helped start (and still teaches at) the Pacific Academy of Homeopathy, which offers two- and three-year professional training programs. He is also the president of the Council for Homeopathic Certification, a national organization that sets competency standards for people practicing homeopathy in North America.

At Homeopathy, the initial consultation focuses on learning about a client's current and past health issues and getting to know the person in general, Pitt says. Then the homeopath concentrates on designing the proper remedy.

The first visit usually takes an hour and a half, and costs from \$150 to \$210. Follow-up appointments, if needed, may occur once a month for 30 to 45 minutes, at a fee of \$50 to \$70.

Pitt welcomes calls from those interested in learning more about homeopathy, and he also recommends reading Dr. Timothy Dooley's book *Homeopathy: Beyond Flat Earth Medicine* (Timing Publications, 1995).

Also practicing at Homeopathy are Lyn Farrugia, C.C.H., and Corey Weinstein, M.D. Pitt and Farrugia work together. They shared offices near Dolores Park for two years before relocating to Sanchez Street. Farrugia learned homeopathy in the Bay Area and also lives in Noe Valley. She has been in San Francisco since 1989 and has been involved in health care for many years.

Dr. Weinstein has a separate practice in the same office. He has been providing homeopathic services in the Bay Area for 25 years and was one of the original practitioners who helped revitalize homeopathy in the 1970s.

Homeopathy is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Richard Pitt's number is 695-8200; Lyn Farrugia is at 643-4700; and Corey Weinstein can be reached at 824-4124.



Paula Harris entices the neighborhood's dogs and cats with mouth-watering treats at her Noe Valley Pet Co. on Church Street.

## Noe Valley Pet Company and Dog Walking Service 1451 Church St. (at Cesar Chavez) 415-282-7385

The neighborhood's pooches were barking for joy last month as word spread of a new doggie hangout on Church Street. Noe Valley Pet Company and Dog Walking Service opened May 1 at the corner of Church and Cesar Chavez, in the space formerly occupied by Crystal Market.

Co-owner Paula Harris says she's seen dogs straining at the leash to get in—the aroma of treats must be wafting out to the sidewalk. Indeed, walk by the store and you're likely to find dogs yipping for yummys (or at least the owners' Lab-Dalmatian mix, Tessa, grinning from ear to ear).

Harris and her partner, Celia Sack, used to offer a dog walking service from their home in the Castro, but now they've got the space to operate a full-fledged pet supplies company, too. Inside the store, it's bright and airy, with enough room for both people and pets to maneuver without traffic jams. "We really wanted a country store atmosphere," says Harris. The store has large storefront windows, blond pinewood-style floors, open shelving, and antique fixtures with pet themes (Sack is also an antique collector).

As for the merchandise, there's just about everything a dog or cat could want in the way of toys, food, collars, leashes, and home furnishings. (There's also a corner devoted to bird supplies.)

The dog food is competitively priced, with dry food ranging from about \$6 for a 5-pound bag to \$31 for 40 pounds. Canned food is a little over a dollar per can. You'll also find some of the best-known brands, like Nutro-Max, Nature's Recipe, and Iam's. For a snack, the Dixie premium dog chew cigars are trotting out the door, according to Harris.

The Rover and Snuggle pet beds cost \$40 to \$120, depending on size and material, and Kennel Cab carriers range from \$32 for small to \$80 for large. Collars are \$6 to \$8 and leashes are \$5 to \$15. Specialty collars by PetLa (\$25 to \$45) and the Australian firm Mutz & Mogz (\$20 to \$35) are quite popular, too.

The dog walking service is flourishing, but it should really be called a dog *running* service, because Harris and Sack allow their charges to cavort off-leash at places like Fort Funston and Stern Grove. (Sorry, they don't offer neighborhood leash walks.) The partners take turns driving groups of six or seven dogs for a one-hour romp, at \$14 per dog. The dogs' time away from home is two to three hours. Harris and Sack are fully bonded, and welcome your call or visit if you're interested in a social outing for your pooch.

Also coming up — "Treat Tastings." Every Thursday, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., a gathering of canines will get to try out a special featured treat. (There will be hu-

man refreshments, too, but call to make sure the Treat Tasting is on.)

Noe Valley Pet Company is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Cottage Industry Underground 3961 24th St. (between Sanchez and Noe) 415-206-0704

As you descend the steps to Cottage Industry Underground, get ready to be overwhelmed. Exotic treasures from far-away lands are loaded into every nook and cranny of this almost hidden bazaar, lying beneath 17 Reasons on 24th Street. Among the nations represented are Indonesia, Thailand, India, Nepal, Tibet, Burma, Vietnam, Guatemala ... heck, pull out an atlas — co-owner Bruno Guarini has traveled the world to acquire merchandise for his new store.

Cottage Industry Underground opened in March, then closed for a month while Guarini went on a buying trip, then reopened officially in April. From the looks of things now, he won't need to make another journey any time soon.

Colorful fabrics (\$8 a yard), shirts and vests (around \$30), pants (\$24), scarves and belts (\$17 to \$27), jewelry, beads, wind chimes (\$14), candles, incense, cloth bags (\$18), and Buddha statuettes fill the shop's narrow caverns. And Guarini has added soothing music and burning incense to heighten the atmosphere. (You might be familiar with the shop's intimate confines — the space was once occupied by Rumah Sorga, and before that, Chocolate Covered sold goodies there.)

Guarini, a native of Capri, Italy, lives in an apartment behind the store. His most immediate former residence in the U.S. was Florida. "I came back and forth from Miami a number of times, trying to find the best place to settle in San Francisco, and it turned out to be Noe Valley. It's the



Cottage Industry Underground is flowing with treasures from Central America, Asia, and the Far East. Photos by Charles Kennard

place that reminds me most of Europe."

He is happy to talk about his travels, and invites questions about the history and origin of his wares. (Get him to regale you with tales about searching for antiquities on the Tibetan plateau.)

If you'd like to meet his partner, Claudio Barone, you'll have to visit the original Cottage Industry store at 2326 Fillmore St. And if Guarini jokingly asks if you'd like to see his second floor, don't laugh. A second above-ground shop, also called Cottage Industry, is going to open on 24th Street in mid-June. It will be at 4068 24th St., in the old Classy Sweats location across from the post office.

"Since that shop has much more space and higher ceilings, we'll be able to have bigger items like lamps and furniture, but still a lot of gift items," says Guarini. "Come see the many beautiful things I brought back from India."

Cottage Industry Underground is open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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# JUNE 1999

**NOW:** HOMEWORK HELP is available at the Mission Library for grades K-8. Call 695-5090 to set up a weekly appointment with a volunteer tutor.

**JUNE 1, 8 & 29:** Kids 3 to 5 attend STORY TIME at the Noe Valley Library. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 1-20:** The EDGE FESTIVAL 1999, hosted by Dancers' Group, is a showcase of Bay Area choreography. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. Call 824-5044 for schedule.

**JUNE 1-29:** The 30th Street Senior Center hosts Tuesday Latin, swing, and ballroom DANCE classes for all levels. 2 pm. Room 325, 225 30th St. 550-2221.

**JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** FAMILY GAME NIGHTS at the Bernal Library include Trivial Pursuit, Yahtzee, Boggle, and Scrabble in English and Spanish. 6-8:30 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

**JUNE 2, 9, 23 & 30:** The Noe Valley Library hosts LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents beginning at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 3:** BACK SCHOOL at St. Luke's Hospital teaches ways to protect your back. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. Register at 641-6465.

**JUNE 3:** Video documentaries, such as "HUMAN RIGHTS Violations in the U.S.A.," will be screened by Food Not Bombs, Amnesty International, the IWW, and the Video Activist Network. 8 pm. 992 Valencia St. 675-9928.

**JUNE 3-26:** "Selections: ARTWORK by 21 Open Studios Artists" holds an opening reception June 3 from 6 to 9 pm. Gallery hours, Mon. and Wed., noon to 5 pm. Capella Event Center, 270 14th St. 861-9838.

**JUNE 4:** "ZOOFEEST for Kids!" offers a chance for behind-the-scenes visits with animals, plus free Safari train and carousel rides. 6:30-8:30 pm. San Francisco Zoo. 753-7165.

**JUNE 4:** Bay Area pianist/composer and former philosophy teacher Paul Herder performs PHILOSOPHICAL JAZZ. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**JUNE 4-6:** The California AIDS Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles needs volunteers to register cyclists. Call Abby Daniels at 908-0400, ext. 410, or e-mail [aidsrides@aol.com](mailto:aidsrides@aol.com).

**JUNE 5:** The NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS Caucus features experts from other cities offering strategies on rescuing and restoring parks. 9 am-3:30 pm. Delancey Street Foundation Town Hall, 600 the Embarcadero. 538-1790

**JUNE 5:** Registration for the summer session at the SHARON ART STUDIO runs from 10 am to 2 pm. Golden Gate Park, next to the children's playground. For a brochure: 753-7004.

**JUNE 5:** Amy Faust and Shahasp Designs present a STUDIO SALE of handmade silver, onyx, pearl, and bottle glass jewelry. 11 am-5 pm. 237 30th St. near Dolores. 920-9439.

**JUNE 5:** S.F. City Chorus performs a FREE POPS CONCERT at the Golden Gate Park Bandshell. 2 pm. 765-SONG.

**JUNE 5:** Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini sign their new MYSTERIES, *A Walk Through Fire* and *Nothing But the Night*, from 2 to 3 pm; Bill Moody signs his fourth Evan Horn adventure from 2:30 to 3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**JUNE 5:** OLIVER DICICCO and his ensemble Mobius Operandi play composed and improvised works on original musical instruments. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**JUNE 5, 12 & 19:** "Satire and Spoken WORD VOOODOO" features local writers and performers. 8 pm. The Marsh, 1074 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.



Norman Rutherford and Marantha Tewksbury will present the evening-length "Brittle" on June 3 to 6, at the Dancers' Group Studio Theater.

**JUNE 5, 12, 19 & 26:** An "Introduction to TIBETAN BUDDHIST Meditation" begins at 9 am on Saturdays. Tse Chen Ling Center, 4 Joost Ave. 339-8002.

**JUNE 6:** The SPCA's ANIMAL WINGDING '99 is a street fair for people and pets, with four blocks of games, music, food, and a Pet Star Search. 9 am-4 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3058.

**JUNE 6:** Joan, Ava, and Friends perform a CHAMBER MUSIC recital, featuring Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, Wayne Wallace's *Dance Variations*, and works by Lutoslawski and Britten. 7 pm. Music on the Hill at St. Kevin's Church, 704 Cortland Ave. 241-1515.

**JUNE 7-30:** La Cultura Cura offers "Taller de Teatro," ACTING WORKSHOPS, for youth every Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 pm. Mission Rec Center, 745 Treat St. 647-5450.

**JUNE 8:** Preschoolers are invited to STORY TIME at 10 am, followed by a video program at 10:30 am, featuring *The Cow Who Fell into the Canal*, *Musical Max*, and *The Great White Man-Eating Shark*. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

**JUNE 8:** Keane's POETRY at the 33 Series features Paul Watsky reading from his work. An open mike follows. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

**JUNE 9:** Explore volunteer opportunities and MONEY-MAKING SCHEMES at "Don't Get Bored," a summer program for teens. 3:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery, 337-4740.

**JUNE 9:** In conjunction with the "Y2K/Youth 2000" exhibit at Southern Exposure Gallery, "F'Sheezy," a spoken word and dance event with "a sucka-free mix of young turntablists and MCs," runs 6 to 9 pm. 401 Alabama St. 863-2141.

**JUNE 10:** The FRIENDS of Noe Valley's monthly meeting features Carol Badran of the Public Health Department explaining the "Transitions" socialization skills program for fifth-graders, and A. Soto from the Pacific Center for Violence Prevention. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-8016.

**JUNE 11:** Dante de Tablan performs *In This Very Room*, songs to celebrate PHILIPPINE Independence Day and Gay Pride month. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**JUNE 12:** A Dominican Guild GARAGE SALE benefits the Dominican Sisters. 10 am-5 pm. ICA Cafeteria, 24th Street at Guerrero.

**JUNE 12 & 13:** The 23rd annual free FOLK FESTIVAL features songwriter Steve Seskin, plus dance, crafts, and refreshments. Sat., noon-11 pm; Sun., noon-10:30 pm. Roosevelt School, 460 Arguello St. (510) 287-9095.

**JUNE 13:** PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) holds its Doggone Fun Run in Golden Gate Park, a fundraising 5K run or walk with your pooch. 9 am-noon. Speedway Meadow. Register 241-1460.

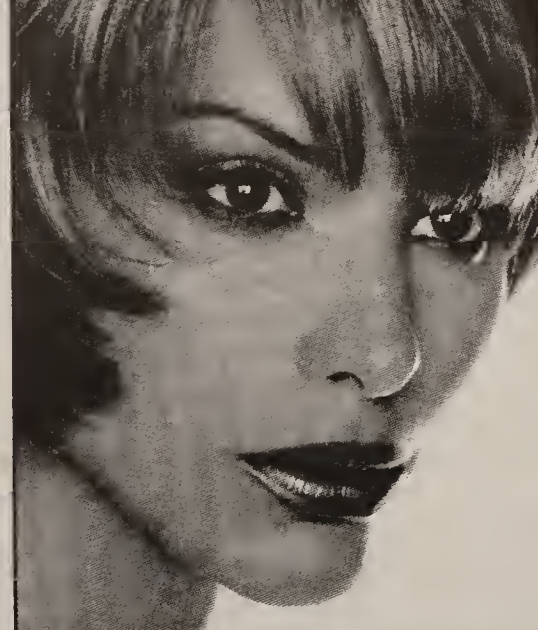
**JUNE 13:** Tse Chen Ling Center offers "BUDDHA FOR CHILDREN," with stories, guided imagery, and simple meditation. 11 am. 4 Joost Ave. 339-8002.

**JUNE 13:** RICHARD BARRE signs his fourth Will Hardesty mystery. 2 to 3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.



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# CALENDAR

**JUNE 13:** Come hear the Golden Gate BOYS CHOIR, ages 7 to 18, sing and ring choir bells at a free concert at St. Paul's Church. 6:30 pm. Church & 29th. For audition info, call 431-1137.

**JUNE 14:** The Golden Gate MEN'S CHORUS performs a choral concert, "Now We Sing the City," at the City Hall Rotunda. 7 pm. 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place. 626-2883.

**JUNE 14:** Help choose new playground equipment for DOUGLASS PARK at a community meeting sponsored by the city's Recreation and Park Department. 6:45 pm. The clubhouse at Douglass & 26th. Krista Keegan (of the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association), 550-9050.

**JUNE 16:** Make a FRIENDSHIP bracelet for a friend at the Mission Library. 3:30 pm. 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

**JUNE 17:** The Trip Trap Troupe performs a PUPPET SHOW. 10 & 11 am. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St. Limited space; call 695-5090.

**JUNE 17:** Rosy Rosebud the CLOWN performs at the Bernal Branch Library at 3 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

**JUNE 17-27:** Frameline presents the 1999 Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, featuring "The Color of Sex," a program of films and panel discussions on race and sexuality. At the Castro, Victoria, and Roxie theaters. See [www.frameline.org](http://www.frameline.org) or call 703-8663 for complete schedule.

**JUNE 18:** A MASK-MAKING workshop led by Nikki Ausschnitt for ages 6 and older begins at 2 pm. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

**JUNE 19:** In "The ABCs of Writing CHILDREN'S BOOKS," Alison Inches shares tips and insights. 10 am-4 pm. The Writing Salon, 642-9793.

**JUNE 19-AUG. 1:** Noe Valley artist MARK ZIEMANN exhibits his work at Cafe J. He will draw free caricature portraits of kids on June 19 from 1 to 3 pm; reception follows on June 20, 5 to 7:30 pm. 1708 Church St. 643-0234.

**JUNE 19:** The Owo Ache DANCE Company performs music, dance, and percussion of Yoruba, Bantu, and Haitian origins. 8 pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. 826-4441.

**JUNE 19:** Merle "Ian Shoales" Kessler and J. Raoul Brody host "An Evening of SONG," 20 performers interpreting the theme "Weather ... or Not," in tunes of 4 minutes or less. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**JUNE 20:** FATHER'S DAY was first suggested by a Mrs. Dodd in 1909, in honor of her own father, who single-handedly raised six children after his wife died. In 1966 Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation creating the holiday on the third Sunday in June.

**JUNE 20:** MAKE "A CIRCUS" Opening Day in the Park celebrates the 25th season of the troupe. 1:30 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 242-1414.

**JUNE 22:** FILMS for preschool children are screened at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 22:** Learn about BATS from the Bat Lady herself, Patricia Winters; children 3 and older. 10:30 am. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 554-9445.



The Swedish romantic film *Show Me Love*, winner of the "Teddy Bear" award for Best Feature at the Berlin Film Festival, will close the S.F. Lesbian & Gay Film Festival June 17 to 27.

**JUNE 22-JULY 31:** Sharon Virtue exhibits CERAMIC TREATS and two-dimensional desserts in "Scrum-Diddley-Umptious." 17 Reasons Store and Gallery, 3961 24th St. 206-1717.

**JUNE 24:** At its monthly meeting, UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS will tackle such issues as neighborhood safety, park renovation, and new stores on Church Street. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

**JUNE 24:** The CESAR CHAVEZ Neighborhood Association (CCNA) will meet to discuss traffic and parking problems along Cesar Chavez Street west of Valencia. 7:30 pm. First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St. 285-0473.

**JUNE 24:** A summer SOLSTICE PARTY given by the Scottish Country Dancers features lively jigs and reels. 7:45-10 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 841-9456 for class schedule.

**JUNE 25 & 26:** New student REGISTRATION for summer music classes occurs Friday from 3 to 7 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**JUNE 26:** The Older Women's League (OWL) features a discussion of long-term care insurance at its MONTHLY MEETING. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Phone 989-4422 for location.

**JUNE 26:** Noe Valley HISTORY DAY, sponsored by the East & West of Castro Club and the Friends of Noe Valley, includes meetings with longtime residents, memorabilia, music by Bruce Sherman (1:30 pm), magic by the Flying Calamari Brothers (2:30 pm), and films. 1-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 647-3753 or 695-5095.

**JUNE 26:** Harlen Coben signs his new MYSTERY, *The Final Detail*, and Dennis Lehane discusses *Prayers for Rain*. 2 to 4 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**JUNE 26-27:** Attend the city's annual Gay Pride PARADE and celebration. Call 864-FREE for info and to volunteer.

## Let Your Flags Fly in July

The next issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will hit the streets on **July 1**, and will cover calendar events for both July and August. (We're on vacation until mid-August, when we'll start revving up the September issue.) We'd appreciate your sending us any calendar or news items by **June 15**.

Please mail your notices to the *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail short items to [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com).

For calendar changes or questions, call Karol at 285-6347. Thanks for keeping us up to date. □

**JUNE 27:** *The Cactus Club Killings* is Nathan Walpov's first in a series of BOTANICAL MYSTERIES. 2-3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**JUNE 29:** NANCY KEANE reads her poetry at 7 pm; open mike follows. Keane's, 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

**JUNE 30:** Paul Levinson's *DIGITAL MCLUHAN* explains the prophetic theories of early "media guru" Marshall McLuhan. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**JULY 3:** BOX SET DUO's concert celebrates the release of a CD recorded at the Ministry last April. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



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## The Opening of a New School in Our Community is a Source of Pride & Joy for Us All!



Photo by Russell Abraham

The People and Friends of St. Paul's Parish invite you to join your friends and neighbors in Noe Valley as we celebrate the Dedication and Blessing of the New

St. Paul's Elementary School  
at 29th & Church

Sunday, June 6, 1999 • 12:15 pm

The celebration begins with a Service at St. Paul's Church  
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## Golden Gate Boys Choir SPRING CONCERT

The Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers (GGBC) will present their  
**ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT**  
on **SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH**  
at **7:00 p.m.**  
at the beautiful St. Paul's Church  
at Church and 29th Street  
in San Francisco's Noe Valley.

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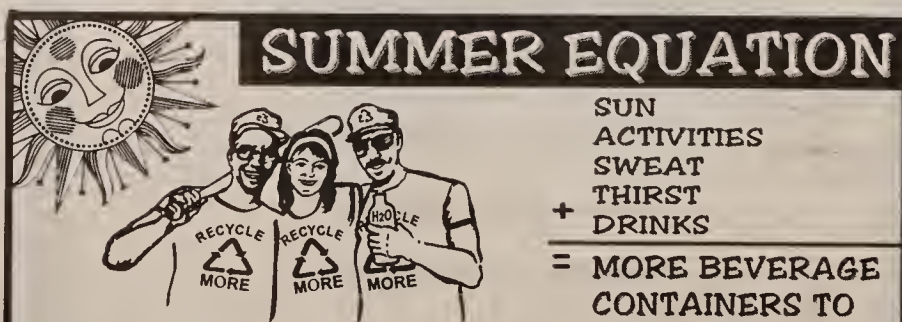
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# Around The Realms The Rested Readers Roamed

The photo at right shows (left to right) Georgia Finnigan, Harry Stern, and Cecile Lozano in front of the famed Eiffel Tower displaying their hometown rag. Georgia and Cecile, former chairs of Friends of Noe Valley, were visiting Harry, who edits the Friends newsletter when he's not in Paris.



Before Harry's departure, Georgia and Cecile procured a copy of *Le Figaro* and posed at a local landmark spot.



At a family reunion in London, Bob and Jean Rocchio of Glen Park managed to keep their copy of the *Voice* out of the fish 'n' chips. Joining them were their son Rob and grandson Jeremy, from Gothenburg, Sweden; their daughter Britt, from Ventura, California; and future son-in-law Dennis Menendez, from San Francisco.



Loyal Voice reader Ali Keshavarz, a Noe Valley resident and co-owner of Peasant Pies on 24th Street, visited his original hometown of Mashad, Iran, after being away for 19 years.

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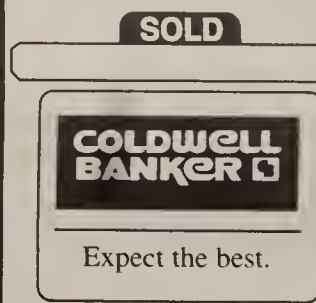
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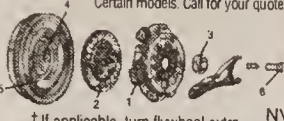
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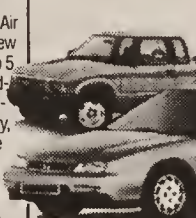
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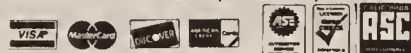
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# Timothy Mouse Needs a Mother

## Two Local Preschools to Close in the Fall

By Dodie Hamblen

Despite a crying need, the number of childcare options for Noe Valley families continues to dwindle. Since our March story on three popular preschools possibly facing eviction, the *Voice* has learned of two family daycare facilities that will be calling it quits by the end of the summer.

Timothy Mouse House owner and director Valerie Valdez says that unless she finds a buyer, her family daycare will close its doors in August after 11 years in the neighborhood. The preschool, with its large colorful mouse mural, is a familiar landmark on the corner of Diamond and 23rd streets.

Valdez, who also owns the building, is moving to Santa Cruz. She hopes to find someone to buy her business, including the waiting lists, equipment, books, and other program materials. "I'm a landlord who actually *wants* daycare in their space," says Valdez, alluding to the trouble many childcare providers have had in finding adequate rentals and supportive landlords in San Francisco.

Timothy Mouse House currently provides childcare to 24 Noe Valley families on a full- or half-day basis. Valdez says that most of the children will be moving on to kindergarten in the fall. But because she cannot guarantee that the school will exist in September, many prospective families have decided to send their children elsewhere.

Little Bear School, Wind in the Willows, and Little People's Workshop—the three daycare centers reported to be in danger of losing their leases (*see sidebar for an update*)—have all considered relocating to Timothy Mouse House, but the space was either too large or too small for their needs. (It has 1,400 square feet of indoor space, plus an outdoor play area of 400 to 500 sq. ft.)

Still, Valdez is hopeful for the future of the school, named for a character in the film *Dumbo*. "The school must go on. It's my child—it's been fabulous for me," she says wistfully. "I'm looking for someone young and energetic who wants to get started in this business." Interested parties should contact Valdez at 282-0215.

Meanwhile, Debi Anaya, owner and director of Cozy Corner Preschool on Dolores Terrace (just off Dolores Street), has also decided to close after eight years in the family daycare business. "I'm closing because I have an opportunity to move on," she says. This fall, Anaya will take a position as director of Calvary Presbyterian Church Nursery School in the Fillmore.

Cozy Corner now serves 22 families whose kids attend on a half- or three-quarter-time basis. Like Timothy Mouse House, it is one of the few family daycare centers with a preschool curriculum that enrolls 2-year-olds.

Asked what she thinks her families will do next year, Anaya says, "It's pretty bleak for families in Noe Valley. There are so few places for me to send anyone anymore. So many have waiting lists. I feel like I am up against the wall."

Leslie Banta, who operates the Eureka Learning Center—which has two sites, one on Eureka and another on Diamond Street—says she is already feeling the fallout from the preschool crunch. "It is very disturbing. We are certainly getting more calls, and people are scurrying around. But this program is already saturated. It makes you feel like, Oh my God, what's going to happen?"

Banta says there is an acute demand for



Rebecca (left) and Samantha, both 4, will miss scampering around Timothy Mouse House, should it close its doors in August. But there is hope another preschool will lease the site.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

quality childcare in Noe Valley. "People like this type of daycare," says Banta, whose program operates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. five days a week.

A teacher in Early Childhood Education at San Francisco State, Banta has run Eureka Learning Center for 16 years. "This is a small independent business, but it is really becoming impossible for people to do this sort of thing in this neighborhood."

She says one reason that launching a small center or running a family daycare out of your home has become so difficult is that "the housing market has changed dramatically in the past 10 years, and the increased prices are driving up rents."

At the same time, licensing rules have become more stringent, as have safety and accessibility standards. These days it takes a lot more money to remodel your home or improve a daycare center. "There has been a lot of attention at the state and federal level to the need for quality childcare," Banta points out, "but the money often goes to nonprofit groups."

In the past year, no new childcare licenses have been issued in the 94114 and 94131 zip codes, and only two applications for new licenses have been made. Sue Humbert Rico, of the California Department of Social Services, says, "Throughout the state we've had a flat line. Just as many [childcare centers] have closed as have opened."

Lucy Vela, childcare development and training director for the Children's Council of San Francisco, agrees that "there are a few small family daycares starting up [in Noe Valley], but not many. There are not too many rentals available, and rents are too high."

Vela's agency is a nonprofit that offers help for parents and childcare workers throughout the city. Anyone interested in starting up a family daycare or childcare center should contact her at 920-7272. □

At press time, the *Voice* learned that Debra King School, a full-time preschool at 26th and Church, was in the process of negotiating to lease the Timothy Mouse House as a second location.

## Churches Find Homes for Little Bear and Little People

Patricia Finnegan, of Little Bear School—the daycare center formerly housed at St. Aidan's Church—says that as a result of our story ("Three Nursery Schools May Be Lost Little Lambs," March 1999 *Voice*), she has been approached by other two neighborhood churches: Shepherd of the Hills on Diamond Heights Boulevard, and First Church of God on Cesar Chavez Street.

"It was a very wonderful, heartening thing," says Finnegan, who was facing the loss of an 11-year-old program.

She is now looking into the feasibility of moving her school into one of those two sites. Her goal is to be up and running by September. (Little Bear serves about 50 children, ages 3 to 5. For an update, call 282-2224.)


Meanwhile, Little People's Workshop, the 23-year-old parent co-op forced to vacate its longtime home in Bernal Heights, has good news, too. On May 1, the preschool moved into Bethany Methodist Church at Sanchez and Clipper streets.

"We're incredibly grateful that [Rev.] Karen Oliveto at Bethany has been so helpful and welcoming to us," says Susan Colen, whose son Nick attends the program. "It's really been a nice transition."


Little People will occupy three rooms in the church five days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "We also get to use the big gym

Continued on Next Page

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## Churches Adopt Little Bear and Little People

*Continued from Previous Page*

for an hour a day, so the kids can run around and have fun," Colen says.

Parents are required to work one day a week at the Workshop, and the program can accommodate just 11 children, ages 18 months to 3 years. But the cost is relatively low for fulltime daycare. "Right now it's \$300 a month, but we're aiming for \$250," says Colen.

A resident of 23rd Street, Colen is delighted with the co-op's new location. "I can walk to school now. And the kids are outside in the neighborhood every day. They go for walks, and they even take rides on the J-Church."

To ask about openings, call Little People at 647-7607. Or call Rose, new member coordinator, at 437-2579. □

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# NOE KIDS

## Finding the Perfect Playground

By Janis Cooke Newman

"This is a baby playground," my 4-year-old son, Alex, says the minute we walk into Noe Courts.

He's right. The climbing structure is a non-intimidating three feet from the ground, and the slide is practically horizontal. Babies in sun hats with flaps that make them look as if they've joined the French Foreign Legion crawl around in the sand. They stare up at Alex, drooling. Their mothers look at him nervously, fearful of the enormous 4-year-old who has just entered this Lilliputian world.

Alex and I survey Noe Courts with a critical eye. We've come looking for the perfect playground—i.e., one that we both will like. Alex's criteria is pretty simple. He likes anything with a climbing structure large enough on which to play Action Boy—an activity which consists solely of running around shouting, "I'm Action Boy!"

I'm a little pickier. I want a playground that's within walking distance of cappuccino, has a nice view, and is filled with interesting people over three feet tall to talk to.

**Noe Courts** is charming. There's a big grassy lawn (home of the dogs vs. kids debate), pretty houses, and lots of sun. I'm only a block away from the Diamond Corner Cafe, and there's a mom reading Virginia Woolf sitting next to me, so I'm willing to stay.

But Alex cannot really get up a good head of Action Boy steam on the tiny climbing structure, and the tire swing is no compensation.

"This is boring," he says. "Let's go."

Trying not to step on any of the babies in the French legionnaire hats, we leave Noe Courts and head up Douglass Street.

"You should have brought my bike," Alex accuses me, as soon as he catches sight of Douglass Park's nice flat macadam basketball court.

"Look at that cool slide over there," I say, pointing out a long slide that shoots out from under the trees.

Alex tests out the slide a couple of times and then climbs onto monkey bars shaped like a cartoon spaceship. I eavesdrop on a group of moms sitting in the sand.

"This is the fourth child I've tried to get into that school," one of the moms is saying, as she shakes her head. "You think they'd give me a break by now."

**Douglass Park** reminds me of playgrounds in Marin, the county we just moved from—it's grassy and woodsy, and you have to get in your car if you want coffee. When the sun dips behind the rocky cliff at the back of the playground, I start to get cold.

"Come on, Alex," I call to my son, who is busy spinning a queasy-looking little girl on the roundabout.

"I don't want to go," he says, coming with me anyway. On the way out, we stop to drink at Douglass Park's exploding water fountain.

We drive over to the Upper Noe Playground, where a group of Spanish-speaking nannies and a hip, SOMA-type dad with a shaved head are sitting around a sand pit that reminds me of the conversation pits they used to build in living rooms in the 1960s. At their feet, small children attempt to scale the cement wall around the pit, only to fall back



Four-year-old Alex says his favorite playground is Dolores Park, where he can play Captain Hook on a big beached boat. Photo by Ken Newman

like frogs trying to escape an aquarium.

Alex runs off to try the satisfyingly loud clatter bridge, while I hover around the sand pit.

The only real view at **Upper Noe** is of the knobby spires of St. Paul's Church, peeking over the top of somebody's house. I watch a woman with a windbreaker zipped up over her sari pushing her son, and occasionally Alex, on the swings.

We could walk down to Church Street, I think—I'm feeling tempted by a Cafe J latte served in a cup big enough to have a facial in—but I hate to quit before finding the perfect playground.

"One more stop," I tell Alex, as we head over to Dolores Park.

The park's enormous climbing structure is mobbed with big kids from one of the nearby schools. Their teachers refer to them by room number: "Five more minutes, Room 15!" "Time to line up, Room 25!" Now that Alex is the Lilliputian, I'm afraid he'll get trampled, but the big kids seem to regard him as a kind of animated toy, pushing him down the circular slide so fast he's like a marble coming out of a chute.

I sit on one of the sunny benches and contemplate the Moroccan-looking tower of Mission Dolores, the gold-plated dome above City Hall. From where I'm sitting, I have a perfect view of the downtown skyline and Alex running back and forth on a wooden boat shouting, "I'm Captain Hook!"

A woman with tattooed shoulders is throwing a yellow tennis ball to a dog with a heavy gold chain around its neck. Someone just over the grassy hill is playing conga drums. A couple is sleeping under a palm tree with black leather jackets over their faces.

When I ask Alex what he likes best about **Dolores Park**, he tells me, "Everything here is my favorite."

Afterward, we cross over to the Dolores Park Cafe, where a biker with a mohawk startles Alex by speaking to him with a woman's voice. Sitting at a table in one of the cafe's sunny windows, we clink glasses—mango smoothie and cappuccino—in celebration of finally finding the perfect playground. □

### The Playgrounds

**Noe Courts:** Douglass Street, between Elizabeth and 24th streets.

**Douglass Park:** Douglass Street, between Clipper and 27th streets.

**Upper Noe Playground:** Day Street, between Sanchez and Church streets.

**Dolores Park:** Dolores Street, between 18th and 20th streets.



**NOE KIDS** is a new column about where to go and what to do with your budding urban legends. It's written by Janis Cooke Newman (who last wrote for the *Voice* about moving from Marin to Noe Valley), with a great deal of input from her 4-year-old son, Alex. But we'd also like some input from you. If there's a topic, activity, or outing you'd like to see covered in Noe Kids, please e-mail Janis at [jcn@linex.com](mailto:jcn@linex.com), or write to us at the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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# New Baby in the House?

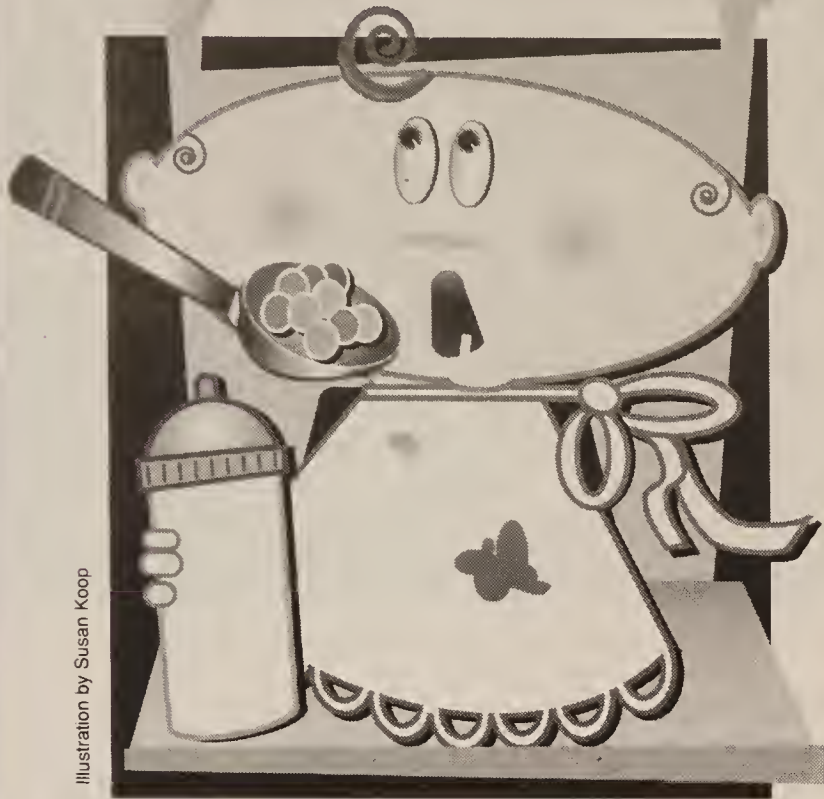


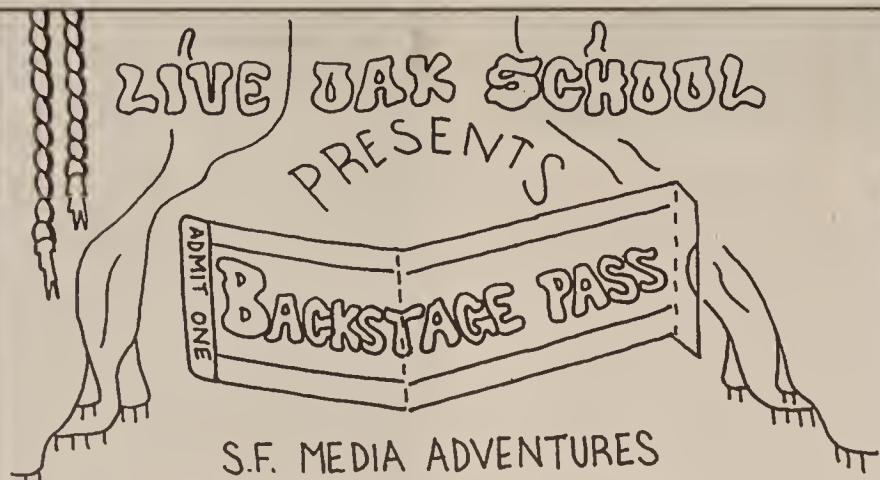
Illustration by Susan Koop

## We've got you covered!

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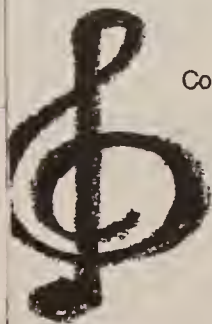
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**Out and About.** Teachers and kids from Foundations Home Day Care of Bernal Heights performed a successful field day operation on 24th Street in May.

Photo by Charles Kennard



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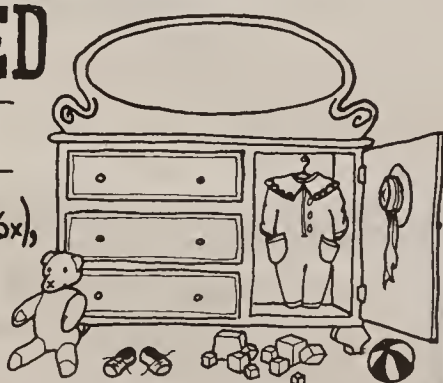
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and everyone else we may have missed!

We also want to thank the businesses who donated food to our Parent Outreach event:

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# MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

## James Joaquin Calvo

James Joaquin Calvo made an early arrival into his family in more ways than one. Two weeks before his due date, mom Audrey Calvo was admitted to California Pacific Medical Center to have labor induced. She was told she'd have to stay overnight, and her doctor predicted she'd give birth about 4 p.m. the following day.

"It was a full moon that night," recalls father Carlos Calvo. "We had called the hospital, and the place was packed. When we finally got there, there were women everywhere. Audrey told me to go home. She said, 'I'm going to need you tomorrow.'"

"I wanted him to rest," explains Audrey, "to be ready to go first thing in the morning and to be with me all day. Then I'd have the baby in the afternoon."

Early the next morning, Aug. 20, 1997, Carlos got a wake-up call from Audrey, saying, "I've gone into labor and bring me some Popsicles!" After a run to the Safeway, Carlos joined Audrey at the hospital, where James was born just 90 minutes later, at 10:30 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces.

"She was zooming," says Carlos. "Even the doctor, when she arrived, said, 'What are you guys doing, having a baby?'" She couldn't believe it."

"It was amazing," agrees Audrey. "It went a lot faster than they expected."

Audrey, 33, a writer, and Carlos, 32, a photographer, met in 1987 while working at a high-tech firm in Walnut Creek. The couple got married in 1990 and bought their home on Sanchez Street the same year.

While Mom and Dad work, James hangs out with the rest of the family. "We juggle family babysitters," Audrey points out, "three of them — my grandmother (James' great-grandmother), Marian Byrne; Carlos' mom, Mimi Calvo; and Carlos' aunt, Nohemy Harrington. Each person has something different to offer, and I think it's affected his personality because he's so sweet, he's so well adjusted. These women love him so much. They're his family, he'll grow up with them, and he'll always know them. I'm just really thankful for them."

Also known as "J.J.," James has his father's deep-brown eyes and brown hair. He was named after Audrey's father, James Broyles. "He has this calmness about him that I think he probably got from my father," says Audrey. "He's just really mellow. He never bounces off the walls. He's happy."

James' godfather, Tony Godkin, has his



Mom and dad Audrey and Carlos Calvo show off their sweet baby James, at 20 months.

Photo by Pomelo Gerard

own opinion: "Just wait until he starts talking, he'll be just like Carlos!" he kids.

James inherited a love of books from his great-grandmother. "She was a school teacher, and she taught him to love books," Audrey says. "So that's what they do together because she can't take him out for walks. Lately, to go down for his nap, he has to have a book." James has even been known to fall asleep with an open book covering his face.

"He seems to be aware that his great-grandmother is a little frail," Carlos says. "He doesn't push her buttons that much, like he does us. He's really nice to her. For some reason with her, he'll just climb into the carriage and go to sleep. Or she'll go grab a diaper, and he'll climb up on the sofa and lay there while she changes him. She's the only one he does that with."

"He's imitating us these days," says Audrey, describing her son's new habit of repeating words. At 21 months, James understands Spanish (Dad is bilingual and Mom is picking it up) and has already added a few words such as *agua* and *gracias* to his vocabulary.

"He likes rhythm," says Carlos. "We put on merengue and salsa, and he just dances around like a madman." James will also pick up the maracas, cowbell, or wooden fish instrument, or bang away on the bongos in time with the music.

James took his first steps at 13 months,

and can regularly be seen strolling down Sanchez to 24th Street, while doing his part to keep the neighborhood clean.

"He likes to walk down the street collecting rubber bands," Carlos says. "He gives them to me, and I give them back to him when we're done with the walk. Then he goes 'No!' and throws them in the garbage can. It's hilarious. He'll pick up newspapers and stuff he finds, and he holds on to them until we come to a garbage can and throws them in."

After all that hard work, James may sit atop his dad's shoulders or simply hop the J-line for the return trip home. He is also eager to help out there. "He peels garlic, he helps cook," Audrey says. "He's great around the house. He sweeps while we vacuum." His grandmother even bought him a toy push broom so he can tackle those dust bunnies in the corner.

"When you're cleaning the kitchen, he'll take the sponge and clean his high-chair. He'll wipe stuff down," says Carlos. "He'll pick up his toys, and he'll pick up stuff out of the way while I'm vacuuming. He's really into it too—he'll go to the sofa and lift, and he'll pretend to vacuum under it and be really intense. When he does things, he really concentrates."

James attends a weekly play group with Mom, and on Saturday mornings his regular destination is Kids Gym at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street.

Carlos, whose childhood home was on 23rd Street at Eureka ("before Noe Valley was Noe Valley," he says), is delighted that there are plenty of playmates for James. "I'm glad now that there are a lot of kids, because when I was growing up in San Francisco, there were also kids of all different ages. All the parents and the neighbors knew you. If a neighbor told you to do something or stop doing something, you listened, because you knew it was going to get back to your parents. So that whole village thing is coming back now, where everybody knows everybody."

James' friends may also like him just because he's fun. "He's really gentle and sweet and easygoing," Audrey says. "We're really lucky."

"He's been a little treasure, absolutely," Carlos agrees. "He really grows on you, that's for sure." □

**More Mouths to Feed** wants to show off *your* newest family member. If you have welcomed a new baby into the house, or adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail us at [javoice@aol.com](mailto:javoice@aol.com). We'd also appreciate a phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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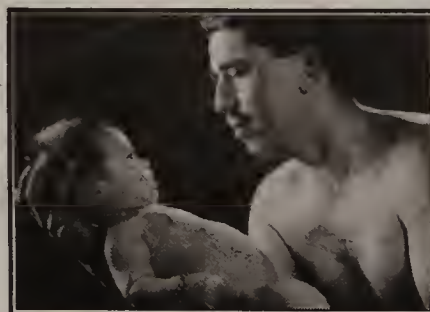
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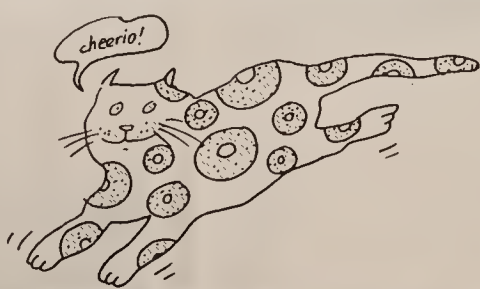
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## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

### Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230;  
capa@home4us.org  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100  
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Ed White, 774-3237  
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728  
Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First  
Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30  
p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings  
semi-annually. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Keith  
Eickman, 282-8988; Dennis Downing,  
647-0937; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July,  
August, and December), Eureka Valley Rec-  
reation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183  
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe  
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

### Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month,  
Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

### Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086, or  
Bill Yenne@hotmail.com  
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: General meetings are held the  
second Thursday of the month in Feb.,  
April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.  
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

### La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366  
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal  
Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie,  
10:15 a.m.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Julie Dilley, president, 647-7196,  
jdilley@earthlink.net; Joanna Sacks, vice  
president, 495-1470, joanna@softmed.com  
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Executive board meets first  
Tuesday of month; general meetings  
quarterly. Call for details.

### Noe Courts Coalition

Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.  
Voicemail: 675-0110; nichapin@aol.com.  
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O.  
Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087  
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7  
p.m. Call for location.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692  
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick,  
Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574,  
San Francisco, CA 94114-6003  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank  
of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

### Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association

Contact: Dorthe Deubler, 824-4680  
Mailing Address: 622 Douglass St., San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

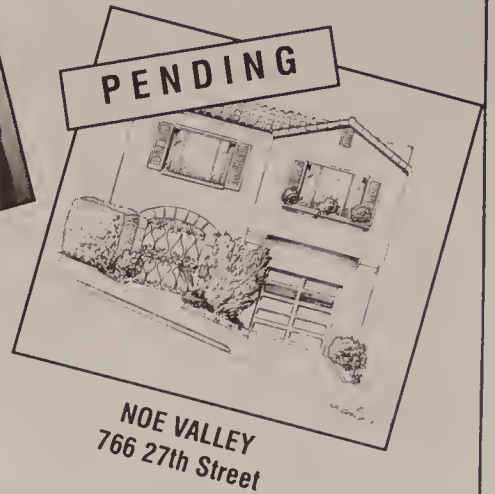
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's  
Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Fourth Thursday of month, Upper  
Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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A Lace Pattern of tree shade paints the Sanchez Street sidewalk.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

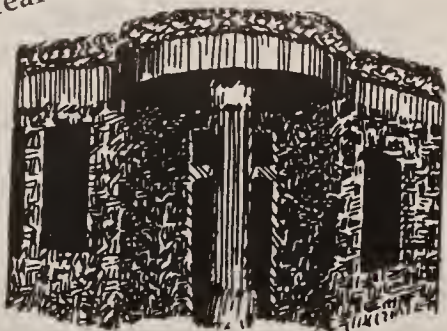
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by Florence Holub

## A Lovely Resting Place for Audrey

Not long ago, while striding down 21st Street to Church, I met a young woman and her small daughter panting as they labored uphill. "What a delightful street! I have never seen it before," she said to the girl.

Yes, 21st Street is delightful, now that the ugly telephone poles have come down and the wires have been buried underground. Today you can see our picturesque houses and the wealth of greenery, amid the quaint old-fashioned street lamps that were installed a couple of years ago.

And we owe it all to the vision of Audrey Rodgers, the best friend this neighborhood ever had. Audrey died suddenly (and too soon) in 1994, at only 71 years of age, but her good deeds will remain with us always.

Audrey determined the future of Dolores Heights (also known as Sanchez Hill) by leading the drive to have it named a "special use district." This zoning designation preserves the Victorian and other older buildings in the area, and sets height and size limits for new houses and apartments. Audrey also organized the tree plantings and launched the petitions for putting our utilities underground.

Back in the '70s, this was a major feat. At the time, the only other neighborhood in San Francisco that had gained such growth controls was Russian Hill. But Audrey accomplished her mission with class and a clear knowledge of city government.

She began the drive in 1978, by rallying those residents who were concerned about overdevelopment on the hill. Then she drew up a list of people who had some professional expertise in architecture and housing issues. (I didn't have either, but I was eager to help Audrey with the paper- and footwork.)

When I looked over the list of people she planned to include among her experts, I was surprised to see one name. "He is the enemy," I said doubtfully. She smiled and responded, "That's why I chose him."

Then I watched in admiration as her persuasive manner transformed our potential enemy into a loyal ally.

Later, when City Planning's Bob Passmore scanned the names of those chosen for the Dolores Heights Special Use District Committee, he exclaimed, "You could start your own Planning Commission!"



Sculptor J.B. Blunk (left), Dr. Timothy Rodgers, Mayor Willie Brown, and Janice Bracken gathered with local residents on Sanchez Hill in late March to dedicate a memorial bench to Audrey Rodgers, an early champion of neighborhood beautification.

Photos by Leo Holub

Although most residents applauded the plan, there were some who opposed the height restrictions. A few, understandably, had dreamed of selling their homes for a large enough sum to finance their retirement. One or two, however, envisioned the hill as a high-rise mecca and saw themselves as the new Donald Trump.

One such owner, of an already large parcel of property, approached our late neighbor Rhea Kley upon the death of her husband, and suggested that if she would like to get rid of her two-bedroom home, he would be willing to take it off her hands. Rhea responded with a tongue-in-cheek smile and a polite no-thank-you. However, if he would like to dispose of his own property, she said, he should feel free to contact her. The discussion ended right there.

During two years of intense activity, our case came up many times before the Board of Supervisors. Once, after Audrey delivered a particularly well-crafted presentation, Supervisor Harvey Milk rushed over to pledge his support.

Upon Milk's death, Supervisor Harry Britt carried on nobly, until in 1980 our Dolores Heights Special Use District status was finally granted. Few people realize that Audrey's grassroots organizing opened the door for both Castro Street and 24th Street to gain protection for its housing and rental stock.

Since then, our neighborhood has become even more desirable, mostly because it has kept its small scale and family-friendly atmosphere. Those who labored so long to make it so can feel justly proud.

This spring, my man Leo and I received an invitation to a block party, to celebrate the official dedication of the Audrey Rodgers Memorial Bench, placed on the southwest corner of 21st and Sanchez streets.

On the afternoon of March 27, we arrived to find the area had been cordoned off and furnished with tables, chairs, and a four-piece country-western band, ready to play all day.

There was also a white peaked tent for heating and serving the entries in a Chili Bake-Off Contest.

After greeting old friends and meeting new neighbors, most of us got around to tasting the bowls of chili. They were all so good that by the time I had decided on my favorite, the winner was being announced!

The recipe voted best was Nance's All-Organic Black Bean Chili. Nancy

Levy won the honor and a \$100 dollar bill, which she shared with Martin Mac-Clain (who actually did the cooking).

The celebration was well attended by people of every age, from seniors to little children, and all were having a wonderful time. Claiming much attention were the youngest, an adorable set of twir babies from 20th Street. All the while, a little dog wearing a harness wandered around between the legs of the assembly.

Supervisor Mark Leno of Noe Valley mingled with the folks until it was time for him to speak. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, he said, he was presenting two certificates in appreciation of the outstanding service rendered by the late Audrey Penn Rodgers. One was awarded to Audrey's daughter, Janice Bracken, and the other to her son, Dr. Timothy Rodgers.

It was Janice who planned and actually brought this project to fruition. First, she commissioned an internationally recognized sculptor, J.B. Blunk, to create the redwood burl bench. (That would be the easy part.) Then she spent the next four years wading through red tape. But like her mother before her, she persisted and won in the end.

Leno thanked her and her brother, then concluded his remarks, saying that we could be assured that Mayor Brown would arrive at 5 p.m.

At that hour, all eyes were on the shiny limousine that turned slowly onto our corner. The Honorable Mayor Willie Brown, impeccably dressed in a black hat and suit, topped with a fine, camel-

colored alpaca overcoat (it was chilly!), stepped out and proceeded through the crowd. He smiled ear to ear, chatting and shaking hands all the way to the speakers' sidewalk.

The mayor spoke of Audrey's many contributions to the betterment of our city, and her beautification of the neighborhoods, such as this one. Then on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, he accepted the work of art, the Audrey Penn Rodgers Memorial Bench.

The mayor stayed on for a while, obviously enjoying the occasion and having a turn at trying out the bench. (Later, we learned that he had come directly from Sacramento where he had spoken for President Clinton, who had been required to stay in Washington, D.C., dealing with the Kosovo crisis.)

The bench stands at street level in front of a beautifully landscaped easement on Sanchez between Hill and 21st streets. It has been carved from a section of giant redwood, smoothed and coated with a glass-like protective finish that reveals the rich redwood tones in the grain.

In April, the poppies around the memorial began to bloom, and each week since, new touches of color have burst forth. By midsummer, the garden will be a beautiful sight to behold.

And for the weary, there is a handsome curved bench in which to sit and relax and enjoy the view of the city (and Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph's Tudor cottage across the way). Audrey would have loved it! □

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## MORE BOOKS to READ

Here's a roundup of new books at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, provided by Head Librarian Roberta Greifer and Children's Librarian Carol Small. The library is located at 451 Jersey St. (near Castro Street). Besides books and periodicals, the branch offers CDs, Internet access, and past issues and an index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, noon to 6. To ask about a book or other materials, call 695-5095.

### Adult Fiction

◆ In *The Dream Mistress* by Jenny Diski, a London seamstress who discovers a bag lady close to death imagines she's her estranged mother.

◆ *East of the Mountains*, by David Guterson, the author of *Snow Falling on Cedars*, tells what happens when Ben Givens, a widower diagnosed with terminal cancer, ventures on a journey of discovery through the American West.

◆ Portraying the middle class of modern India, *Freedom Song* contains three short novels by Amit Chaudhuri, an Indian author being published in the U.S. for the first time.

◆ *The World and Other Places*, by Jeanette Winterson, author of *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, contains 17 of her new short stories.

### Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *Home Town*, author Tracy Kidder examines the town of Northampton, Massachusetts, and its residents.

◆ *Time, Love, and Money*, by Pulitzer Prize winner Jonathan Weiner, describes the genetic discoveries of Seymour Benzer, one of the greatest biologists of the century.

◆ *Work as a Spiritual Practice*, by Lewis Richmond, offers a practical Buddhist approach to job satisfaction and inner growth.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer

### Noe Valley History Day

◆ On Saturday, **June 26**, 1 to 5 p.m., the library will host its annual "Nostalgic Look at Noe Valley," co-sponsored by the East & West of Castro Club and the Friends of Noe Valley. Come meet new- and old-timers, and view a film, photos, and other memorabilia stored in the Noe Valley Archives. The event will feature cookies and refreshments, a magic show by the Flying Calamari Brothers (1:30 p.m.), and musical entertainment by Bruce Sherman and others (2:30 p.m.).



For other library events, call 557-4400 or visit the San Francisco Public Library's web site at <http://sfpl.lib.ca.us>.

### Children's Fiction

◆ In *No, David!* author-illustrator David Shannon shows that even a boy who makes mischief again and again and again is still loved by his mother. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ A traditional folk song is creatively and joyfully expanded upon—until bedtime, that is—in *A-Hunting We Will Go* by Steven Kellogg. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ A clever main character receives a birthday present and then uses it to solve a number of different problems in *Lottie's New Beach Towel* by Petra Mathers. *Ages 4 to 5.*

◆ Joseph Slate (with the aid of illustrator Ashley Wolff) helps children understand important number concepts in *Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day of Kindergarten*. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◆ In *The Scrambled States of America*, Laurie Keller shows that even for land masses, "there's no place like home." *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ For one week each summer, Joe and Mary Alice visit their grandmother in a small town. Their eccentric grandmother never ceases to amaze them in *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck. *Ages 10 and up.*

◆ Joey is making a lot of progress in spite of his "ADHD" and less-than-ideal home life, in *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos. *Ages 10 and up.*

### Children's Nonfiction

◆ George Ancona shows the reader that people in many different countries express joy using their own way of dancing in *Let's Dance!*—illustrated with Mr. Ancona's photographs.

Annotations by Carol Small

### Films for Kids

◆ The library will show *films* for children 3 to 5 on Tuesday, June 22, at 10 and 11 a.m.

### Preschool Story Time

◆ Kids 3 to 5 can hear their favorite tales at the library's *preschool story time*, at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays June 1, 8, and 29.

### Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ Moms and dads should bring their babies for finger play and lullabies at the Wednesday evening *lapsits*, on June 2, 9, 23, and 30. The music starts at 7 p.m.

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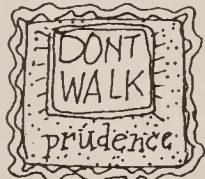
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**Time for Your Housecleaning.** Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and periodic housecleaning available. Reasonable rates, free estimates. Experienced with references. (415) 642-6168.

**Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B** near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.

**Mac or iMac Computer? Need Help?** I can... help you clean up your computer, teach you how to get online and send e-mail, teach you how to surf the Web, help you build a web page, etc. I am the tech coordinator at a private elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.

**Easeful Techniques for Stressful Times.** Using the rich variety of guidelines available in Yoga, we learn to take charge of stressful situations rather than being controlled by them. These workshops explore the ways we react to stress and how we can put Yogic guidelines to work for us so we can be more easeful, peaceful, and dynamic. Tuesday, June 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Fluoride, Chlorine, Cryptosporidium** water filtration systems. Sink, full house, and shower. (415) 248-1869.

**Are You Feeling Blocked** by depression, trauma, grief, fear? Skilled, caring therapy to heal emotional wounds, discover new directions, revitalize relationships. Jennifer Feeley, M.A., registered M.F.C.C. intern, trained in Jungian dream analysis and career/midlife transitions. Sliding scale, individuals, couples, all persuasions welcome. (415) 241-8860.

**Morgenstern & Son Hauling.** Dump runs. Discount for salvageables. Free estimates. Call 902-8026 anytime. Small job? Pager Nick, 560-3637.

**Home Heating Specialist.** Warm air furnaces, ductwork, chimneys installed, replaced. Problem systems improved, quieted. Fifteen years serving Noe Valley. Licensed. Call Larry Fitzsimmons, 826-0308.

**Deep Relaxation Workshop.** Learn how to use deep relaxation in creative ways to release physical and mental tension, patterns of stress, as well as conserve energy in your daily life. This workshop will include an extended deep relaxation, visualization, breathing practices, and a short meditation. Tuesday, June 1, 6–7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Gardening.** Consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. 626-1258.

**A Positive View.** Counseling, psychotherapy, care management to help people manage eyesight loss. Home visits. Medicare accepted, negotiable fee. (Medicare Provider ZZZ36612Z, L.C.S.W. 14086.) Call (415) 334-1984.

**Housecleaning.** Experienced and responsible. Excellent references. Free estimates. Call Luiza, (415) 863-4764.

**Phil's Window Cleaning Service.** Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 668-8310.

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**Word Processing** (expertise: legal/medical). Audio/ videotape transcription, editing, resumes and letter composition, including complaint letters. 24-hour phone-in dictation system available. Dena Reiner, (415) 821-4661.

**Garden Suite Short-Term Rental.** Noe Valley area with #24 bus at corner. Furnished three rooms, view, deck, rose garden. Private entrance. Quiet, cozy, and very private. Perfect for guests that you don't have room for. (415) 826-1016.



**Prenatal Yoga.** Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyous pregnancy. Please call Elizabeth at 931-7291 to register for this class. Six Mondays, beginning June 21, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. Call (415) 821-1117.

**English Lessons** (all ages) and tutoring (all subjects) for K–5th grade. Credentialed teacher: Teresa, (415) 863-1356.

**Carpentry, Ceramic Tile, Drywall, decks, finish carpentry, hardwood floor refinishing, painting.** Reasonable prices, good references, free estimates. Call Brad, 627-4065.

**Housecleaning.** Experienced. Excellent references. Own car. \$15/hour. (650) 992-0538, Gil.

**Reiki—Nurture Your Soul,** heal your self with this gentle, sacred form of hands-on healing. Anke, R.N., Reiki master, Shiatsu massage practitioner. Both practices are strictly nonsexual, and you remain fully clothed. (415) 346-4503.

**Computer Confused?** Personalized help with PC and MAC problems. Software, Internet, e-mail, bookkeeping, Web design. Free needs assessment. (415) 350-2835.

**Upholstery.** We repair, rebuild, and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, sofas, and dining chairs. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.

**Gentle Yoga.** Simple stretches, yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques to gently stretch and strengthen the body. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Sundays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$8 (\$5 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

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**Housecleaner Available.** 12 years' experience. Wonderful references. English speaking, own car. Call Rosane at 885-2215.

**Vacation Room Rental,** upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. (415) 821-4890.

**Solution-Focused Therapy** works in relatively brief agreements (12 sessions or fewer, possibly renewable), building on your self-knowledge. My skills provide questions that help you define goals, release obstacles, and clarify or change your individual process. (A modified version is offered to couples.) I'm a well-aged former educator, perceptive, intuitive, flexible, anti-racist, well-respected; who has seen heard and experienced a broad range of life's challenges (25 years as a counselor). Love my work! Upper Glen Park, San Francisco: parking, buses, BART. Jeanne Adleman, M.A., (415) 585-0666.

**Property Owners!** Thinking about remodeling or adding to a building or constructing a new building? Get the input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 27 years experience. Free initial consultation.

**Yerba Buena Ayurveda.** Full-service Ayurvedic center. Enhance your health and well-being. Dietary and lifestyle consultations. Massage. Herbal steams. Classes and workshops. Gift certificates. Call (415) 440-0109.

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# CLASSES

**Mother/Baby Yoga.** This six-week class is for new mothers and pre-crawling newborns. It includes gentle stretching, chanting, breathing, deep relaxation, sharing, and discussion. Preregistration is required. Please call Madhuri at (415) 821-1117. Six Wednesdays, beginning June 23, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Experienced, great references, reasonable rates. Elli, (650) 872-0906.

**Personal Fitness Trainer.** One-on-one training at the gym or your home. 20 years experience. Best in San Francisco! First lesson half price. No gimmicks, just results. Make an appointment and you're on your way. Call Ken, 552-0349.

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**Substance Abuse Counseling.** Confidential. Compassionate, certified. Bernal Heights location. Eric Denner, M.B.A., C.A.D.C. (415) 824-4541.

**Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley.** Parents or friends coming, and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church line. Oliver House, (415) 695-0700.

**Kripalu Yoga.** Mixed-level class for inner balance, relaxation, and well-being. Beginners welcome. Bring blanket, pillow, loose clothing. Second, third, fourth, and fifth Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$12 drop-in or \$40 for 4 classes; first class free. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez at Clipper. (650) 742-2558.

**Telephone wiring and jacks for your home or business;** 37 years of experience. Call Gene, 826-8419.

**Body Work by Bruce.** Noe Valley/Calistoga-based massage therapist now taking clients: specializing in deep tissue and therapeutic massage. Licensed. Has space/can come to you. (415) 648-3651.

**Guitar Lessons.** Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

**Flute Lessons.** Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. Fifteen years experience. Carla, (415) 648-3651.

**The Writing Salon Will Offer Saturday writing workshops on the following topics this month:** June 5, writing book proposals; June 12, creating fiction from personal reality; June 19, writing children's books; and June 26, travel writing. All workshops run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., are limited to a maximum of 12 people, cost \$75 to \$100, and take place in Bernal Heights (near Cortland Avenue). Our next session of eight-week evening classes begins July 12 and runs through August. To get onto our mailing list and receive complete course descriptions for all of our weeknight classes and Saturday workshops, call (415) 642-9793 or visit our web site at [www.writingsalons.com](http://www.writingsalons.com).

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**Goals Coaching Works For:** Financial security, higher education, career advancement, lifestyle changes, entrepreneurs, right livelihood, balanced living, spiritual practices. Learn to align values with desires. Break through limiting blocks. Gain clarity and release creativity. Reasonable rates. Private sessions. Peer training for partners and groups. (415) 695-9066.

**Save This Advertisement!** David's Reliable Housecleaning. Call for appointment, (415) 282-4047.

**Meditation Workshop.** A practical workshop that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, June 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

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**Drop-in Hatha Yoga.** Learn yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Classes daily. Phone 824-9600 for the class schedule. \$8 (\$5 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

**Studio with View and Parking.** Short- or long-term lease. Eureka/Noe Valley. (415) 826-1158.

**Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley.** Unique approach for holistic balance. Beginners Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. \$5 introduction, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Friday morning, Douglass Park, 10 a.m. to noon, Douglass at Clipper. Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. (650) 756-6857; (415) 773-8185.

**Overwhelmed by Clutter, Bills, Closets?** Professional organizing team to the rescue. We offer expert, simple solutions to what goes where. Desks, closets, relocations, garages, kitchens, filing systems, and more. Free phone consultation. Call Ship-Shape, 550-0658.

**Noe's Nest.** Located in the heart of Noe Valley, your home away from home. A number of uniquely decorated rooms with private bath, TV, VCR, CD players, telephone (free local calls), and voice mail. Some have private entrances; views; decks; working fireplaces; steam room; hot tub and aquariums. Let's not forget the Brooklyn Breakfast Buffet. Price range \$95 to \$160. Parents, children, and friends warmly welcomed. (415) 821-0751.

**Handyman/Carpenter.** Repair a door, hang a kitchen cabinet, remodel a closet, add a room, build a fence or a deck, or even trim a tree. I'm skilled and do good work at reasonable prices. Robert, 550-4055.

**Kirtan/Chanting.** Kirtan is chanting of spiritual mantras, sounds, songs, and names in the Sanskrit language. Accompanied by drums and other rhythm instruments, kirtan is the joyful spiritual path. Friday, June 11, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., by donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Cleaninghouse.** Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

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**Transform Your Jungle** into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

**Sublet: Charming Upper Noe Valley Flat** available August 6 to September 3. Loft bed, garden, laundry. \$1,700. 643-0234.

**Piano Lessons in Noe Valley:** Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Barnett, 648-1007.

**Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast.** Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. (415) 648-2515.

**Tax Preparation and Consulting.** My 11-year-old practice consists largely of self-employed individuals, many of whom are artists or musicians. I also specialize in helping non-filers, audit representation, offers-in-compromise, and pre-bankruptcy tax planning. Call Alan Steger, E.A., (415) 387-3057.

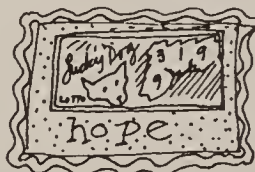
**Rental Short-Term:** Noe Valley view location; two guest suites with furnished living/bedroom areas, private baths, private phone lines, private entrances; shared kitchen/laundry; ideal for visiting family/friends, business travelers; weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

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**Tax Preparation** for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. \$10 discount with this ad. (415) 695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

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**Housecleaning Since 1979.** Many original customers, Call Richard, 255-0389.



**Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans.** Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream; \$250/two-night weekend, \$275/three-night weekend, \$75/night midweek with two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month. Ten percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

**Dances of Universal Peace.** An evening filled with beautiful dances and song in which everyone participates in celebrating the major religious traditions, Friday, June 25, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Dog Walking Service of San Francisco**—celebrating our 28th anniversary serving Noe Valley and San Francisco! (415) 731-0120.

**Garage for Rent.** Ideal space for carpenter, mechanic, et al to store tools, supplies...the extra car. \$120 per month. 641-7092.

**All Things Macintosh:** Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring, and more. References. Roslyn, (510) 526-1209.

**Walkin Waggin Pet and Plant Care** by Carla. Noe Valley resident 10 years. Love and attention for all pets: walks, play, and/or sitting. Health care, feeding, and hygiene. Services for all animals (fish, birds, and horses, too). Responsible, mature, fun, and smart. Animal caretaker/owner with lifetime experience. References! 415-648-3651.

**Mobile Notary Public.** Fluent Spanish. Evenings, weekends, and holidays. Jackie, (415) 467-3467.

## The Scoop on Class Ads In the Noe Valley Voice

**It's easy.** Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ a word**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month you'd like to advertise in.

The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**10 for 10 Discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the July/August double issue, distributed July 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is June 15.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. But there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site at no extra charge: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. □

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**Words Wanted:** The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

## Come visit us online!

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Hey, Gray Davis, Prioritize This

By Mazook

**T**HE MAZOOKMOBILE—substituting for the beleaguered Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI)—recently stopped by two local schools, looking for answers to our pesky public education problems. Wearing my Mazook hat, I asked to interview some new grads from the Class of '99, fifth-graders at Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass, and eighth-graders from James Lick Middle School on Noe Street.

I met with Bonnie Kuczborski's class in Room 22 at Alvarado, and Roberto Pena's GRIP group at Lick (Gang Response Intervention Program), who gave up part of their lunch hour to answer this question: "If you were governor of the State of California, what is the first thing you would do for your school, and why?"

The students had 15 minutes to write their answers down, and had no advance warning of the question. I told them to think about it first, and not to worry so much about spelling ("I am looking more for what you have to say than how you say it").

Oh, and make sure you write legibly, so I can read every word of your expert opinions and pass them on to the *Voice* readers, who might then pass them on to our newly elected "Public education is my top priority" governor, Gray Davis. (You all remember that Gray beat Dan Lundgren in Noe Valley by a ratio of 10 to 1.)

Davis presented several education initiatives, both in his budget proposals (not yet passed) and in "emergency" legislation passed by the legislature in special session in March. The numbers added up to \$1.3 billion for schools, half of which would come from the March legislation and the other from the proposed budget. Line items included improving the quality of teachers, school safety, and the accountability and performance of students, particularly in reading.

As you will see, however, the students are crying out for some very simple and inexpensive things to improve their learning experience. And they need these things now!

☎ ☎ ☎

**IN A NUTSHELL:** Alvarado student Megan, age 11, has summed up the feelings of kids at both schools, and probably the students at all public schools in California. Hey, Gray, check this out:

"If I were governor of the State of California, the first thing I would do for my school, Alvarado, is to buy more equipment and supplies. We are always running out of markers, colored pencils, crayons, and chalk. Also, most of our equipment is old. Our desks are stained and people have cut bits off the tops. Our chairs are old and cracked and not all the same size. Our books are old and icky.

"I would also get our school repainted and the floors re-done. The floors are full of holes and covered with marks. The paint is starting to fade and peel, and the varnish is coming off the woodwork. The chalk boards are also covered with old bits of tape.

"School is fun just the same," she winds up (giving us a small crack of light).

Classmate Emily, age 11, was even more specific about the supplies needed: "[As governor, I'd] supply more school

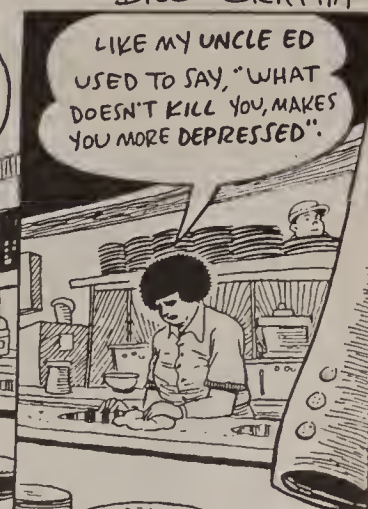
**ZIPPY**



**"ASK AND YE SHALL RECEDE"**



**BILL GRIFFITH**



materials like textbooks, paper, pencils, erasers, chalk, and chalk erasers.... I would supply those things because we are always running out." Emily also insists, "I would also pay the teachers more," and concludes: "I would stop the people who are making better jails than schools because schools are more important."

Concurring is Daniel, also 11 years old, who says, "I think Alvarado needs more money for supplies, such as scissors, rulers, computer programs, pencils, markers and crayons, and other necessary supplies for a better learning experience."

Ten-year-old Nick wanted \$100,000 right away as extra pay for the teachers, and money "to buy new school sporting equipment, school supplies, new science kits...up-to-date encyclopedias and maps and other stuff." Pleads Nick, "I would try to make school much more fun for kids, so when kids wake up they won't groan 'oh no, school,' but they'll say 'all right, it's a school day!'"

Isn't that the essence of it all?

☎ ☎ ☎

**WITH HIS FINGER ON THE PULSE,** 10-year-old Desmond wrote that he had a different priority, one which permeated the responses of almost all the soon-to-be sixth- and ninth-graders:

"If I were governor of California, the first thing I would do for Alvarado would be to give the school updated encyclopedias and better bathrooms, and more education in math, and have more hands-on activities like photo developing, better art classes, and more hands-on experiments in science. I would give the school better encyclopedias because most of them are old and need more info. The bathrooms are always smelly and don't get cleaned very well. Math is a very important subject, and everyone should be well educated in this subject. Hands-on activities are important because it makes learning a lot more fun."

The first thing Madeline, age "10-and-a-half," would do is "get the school new window shades," because the sun gets into "your eyes, on your back, and is reflected off book covers. I also would clean the bathrooms up because they are slippery and stinky. Some doors don't have locks."

For 10-year-old Alex, the first thing to do is get new desks and chairs because "it will help us by being comfortable doing our work."

But Ariel, age 12, would make sure the art program lasted all year.

For Erin, 10, the priorities are to "expand the library, expand the music program... and have more athletic sports, because I think everyone should be getting exercise and I think everyone has a sport that they like."

☎ ☎ ☎

**THE LICK STUDENTS** who role-played as governor are in GRIP, an after-school activity and tutoring group. Their coordinator, Roberto Pena, is a Lick alumnus who graduated in 1988.

Eighth-grader David, 13, set the tone for most of his classmates: "If I was the

governor of the State of California, the first thing I would do would be to put more research materials inside the classroom. I think that the classes could use more informative textbooks and more computers with the Internet. I would have one computer with the Internet for every four kids. I would do that because a lot of kids don't have the Internet at their house, and they need to have access to a computer."

Terse but true is 14-year-old Ray's response: "I would put more time for kids to learn. I would put [more] activities. I would put more money to buy more books."

Terse still was David S., age 15: "I would rebuild the school because the school needs a lot of work."

Eben, 13, wants first to fund "good art and music classes.... Next, not just for this school, but for as many as possible, I would develop a better free lunch...and I would fix up the building itself."

And Priscilla is a 13-year-old who knows her priorities:

"The first thing I would do is make gym optional, make electives your own choice. [I'd also] make a no-uniform policy;

however, students wouldn't be allowed to wear certain gang-related clothes or things that are obscene or offensive. Make graduation caps and gowns free. There would be more field trips. Summer school would take field trips."

It looks as if Jimmy and Herman think Lick's hours should change. Says Jimmy, "Make it start a little bit later like at 8:50 and end at 2:30." Jimmy also wants enough money "to fix it all [Lick]...and buy more school materials."

Herman, agreeing with his friend, says, "The first thing I would do for James Lick School is to make it start at 8:40 every day."

☎ ☎ ☎

**WRITES 14-YEAR-OLD ISAAC,** perhaps a future governor of this great state: "If I were the governor of the State of California, the first thing I would do for James Lick Middle School is give James Lick more money to pay for better supplies, such as new textbooks, better com-

*Continued on Next Page*

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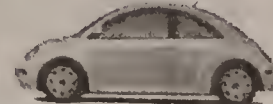
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## RUMORS

*Continued from Previous Page*

puters, [and] a paint job, because you are a product of your environment, and if James Lick is a positive environment, it will make the kids positive, too."

Amen, Isaac.

☎☎☎

BEFORE I GO, I want to thank all the kids who gave me their valuable time and energy, and most of all, their thoughts. I also want to thank the governor's office and Ann Bancroft in the Office of the Secretary for Education for getting me the very latest figures on the \$1.3 billion education budget.

Almost \$200 million is targeted for "reading improvement," and \$150 million is for "teacher quality," with \$100 million for "teacher performance bonuses."

There is also \$25 mil for "middle school after-school programs" and \$10 million for elementary after-school programs. Then there's \$40 million for "parent involvement."

I found \$143 million earmarked for "deferred maintenance," which is probably about 10 percent of what is needed.

On the textbook issue, I was informed by Ms. Bancroft that there was about \$250 million left over from last year, plus \$250 mil allocated this past January, plus another \$144 mil allocated by the legislative special session, plus an additional \$25 million for "classroom books." That gives us a grand total of 669 million bucks for books.

Now, if we could just get a few thousand dollars in paper, pencils, and other basic teaching supplies into our neighborhood schools, we could move on those million-dollar items that will make our schools places our kids want to go.

Bye kids! □

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# A 99-Cent Story

◆ BY EURYDICE CHRONES ◆

**M**y love affair began over 30 years ago. But today, I still live for the chill of the cold steel against my thigh. The bar strikes where leg meets hip, and I push against it with only the force of my stride and sheer anticipation to carry me forward. I love that turnstile. I love everything about Walgreen's.

Jean Naté meets Cover Girl in a sensory "bien venido" that envelops me. Comforts me. "Go ahead, try me," dares a sensuously curved pastel pink bottle of vitamin-enriched body lotion. It's no surprise that Cosmetics is the first department I explore. It grabs you quickly, forcefully: Look at me. Touch me. Smell me.

But it's just the beginning. Like the notches in the turnstile, each and every department marks a turning point in my life. From Candy to Cold Remedies, every aisle has a story. You see, I lived with my mother as a child. That is not unusual. What was unusual was that my mother and I lived together—at Walgreen's.

I don't know why we made such frequent visits. Perhaps it was because we were not a stock-up kind of family. We were lucky if we could remember to buy a yellow-flagged, 99-cent roll of Walgreen's-brand toilet paper before the cardboard tube on our current roll shed its final layer of skin.

We scorned the "club" concept. We could not understand why people would pay for the right to buy shampoo by the gallon (pump included), coffee by

the plantation, paper by the pallet. These bulk buyers proudly walk down aisles 20 feet wide and three stories tall, pushing shopping carts that look like props left over from the old *Land of the Giants* TV show. We didn't belong in that world.

Walgreen's carts are Barbie-size. You love them as a child and appreciate them as an adult. They're training wheels: Practice before you can safely push at Safeway. I trained hard.

I pushed while Mom shopped. Silently at first. My comments were expressed not in emotions but in motions. My cart was an impervious, speeding SUV, racing past the Eye Care aisle. I went into 4-wheel drive, swerving to avoid Analgesics. I slowed to a crawl in Toys. I dragged my left foot, scuffing the cold tile floors with my sneaker-clad emergency brake, any time we approached Candy.

I learned more than the basics of driver's education at Walgreen's. I learned the meaning of "No." I heard it often: No. Don't eat that. No. That's for boys. No. That's for mommies. No. Ask me again in 20 years. No. I do not have a penny for the gumball machine. (I was a slow learner.)

But I would not have grown to love Walgreen's so much if all I'd ever heard was "No." On the contrary, I was allowed to buy my first lip gloss at Walgreen's ... and my first lipstick. My first crayons came from Walgreen's, as did my first five-subject spiral notebook. And my sister bought her first—and last—home permanent at Walgreen's. (She did not shop with my mother in tow as often as I did, or she would never have reached the checkout counter with that box of junior-high, peer-pressurized chemicals.)

And it was because of Walgreen's that I first grasped the magnitude of what my father did for a living.

"Where are you going?" I asked my mother as we finished our shopping one day.

"We have to pay at Cosmetics," she said, stopping me in my tracks.

This wasn't our usual pattern. A trip to Walgreen's had, up till then, culminated in a visit to the checkout lane for our final "I can't possibly leave without this" impulse purchases.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because Dad has a special discount now."

A special discount.

My father was a pediatrician who passed out shots and lollipops in equal measure. Like any physician, he had saved lives. And thanks to a stroke of Walgreen's marketing genius, he, like any physician who wrote out countless illegible prescriptions, was now entitled to a discount.

Unlike most physicians' daughters perhaps, I came to believe that the greatest reflection of my father's role in society was his "professional discount," at my favorite store in the universe. It was then that my father became God.

Through his omnipotence, we could bypass the long checkout lines. We could buy anything—a bar of candy or a bar of soap—with the per-

sonal assistance of the woman at Cosmetics. She and my mother were on a first-name basis. (I still regret not inviting her to my college graduation.)

◆◆◆

When my eldest nephew, Luke, was born nine years ago, I discovered the diaper aisle. Five nieces and nephews later—including twin girls born on Valentine's Day—and I'm an expert in Baby Needs and Toys-Games. (As the twins' godmother, I will have to take a special role in their indoctrination.)

Last fall, I uncovered new territory in Walgreen's: Anti-wrinkle creams. Anti-anxiety pills. Now my candy only looks like candy.

My father, bless his soul, passed away this year. (His discount fell by the wayside in the early '90s.) Yet my mother continues to hand down the family tradition to her grandchildren. When she and Luke go to pay for their crayons and notebooks, they make a beeline for the cosmetics counter.

And no matter how old I am, I think I'll always drag my foot a bit in the candy aisle. ◆

*Eurydice Chrones moved to San Francisco from the Windy City two years ago. She works as creative director for the ad agency that markets McDonald's Happy Meals. She lives in Buena Vista Park, but "I actually hang out at Starbucks in Noe Valley—and, of course, I love the Walgreen's on Castro."*

## SUBMISSIONS THE LAST PAGE

The *Noe Valley Voice* invites you to submit fiction, essays, or poetry for possible publication on The Last Page. Please mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,500 words, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Don't forget to include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.



Photo by Beverly Tharp